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African summit opens

ABUJA, Nigeria (R) — The Organisation of African Unity (OAU) summit opened in Nigeria on Monday with leaders seeking a new policy on ties with fast-changing South Africa. More than 80 presidents are attending the three-day summit in Abuja, Nigeria's future capital. They were joined by South African black leader Nelson Mandela, U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. Most of the 51 members of the OAU face acute political, economic and environmental problems. Nine presidents have left office — most at gunpoint — since the last summit in Addis Ababa in 1990, the highest turnover in one year since the organisation was founded in 1968. But despite the spread of civil war and unrest across the continent, South Africa was the key issue as this year's summit started. Black African leaders are divided over the right approach to President F.W. de Klerk's reformist government in Pretoria. Many want to ease OAU sanctions against South Africa, hoping to speed up the reform process and cement close trade ties with the continent's wealthiest nation. But others, led by Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe, say South Africa must remain isolated until full equality for the black majority is in sight.

Kuwaiti 'collaborator' challenges government

KUWAIT CITY (AP) — A Kuwaiti accused of spreading false rumours that aided Iraq during its occupation on Monday made an impassioned appeal for his right to criticise the government. "I still say that the government did not do what it was supposed to do," said Faraj Nasar Faraj, who appeared before the military court in leg chains. Faraj Nasar Faraj was among 28 people charged with collaborating with Iraq who appeared in martial law court Monday. In all, an estimated 300 people will be brought to trial, all on the charge of cooperating with Iraq after its Aug. 2 invasion. No immediate decision was reached when the court recessed Monday. Faraj, an army volunteer, said his only crime was criticising the Kuwaiti government for not being prepared for the invasion by not putting the army on alert, not anticipating the Iraqi attack and not allowing a civilian parliament that might have made Iraqi President Saddam Hussein hesitate to claim Kuwait.

President Saddam protects Jews

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein protects the Jews of Baghdad despite vowing to burn half of Israel, says a leader of Israel's Iraqi Jewish community. Mordechai Ben-Porat, head of the Babylonian Jewry Heritage Centre, told Israel radio on Monday. "The Jews of Baghdad have already for a number of years reported their situation is good with Saddam Hussein — that he looks after them, doesn't harm them, prevents clashes. The reports are that he looks after them," Ben-Porat said. The Iraqi authorities have permitted Jews to leave the country since mid-May and five Jewish families arrived in Israel.

Fahd says he advised Saddam

NICOSIA (R) — Saudi Arabia's King Fahd has said he never wished on "brotherly Iraq" the suffering it went through in the Gulf war and its aftermath. "But God knows how much advice I gave the Iraqi president to avoid this catastrophe," the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) quoted him as saying at a military parade on Sunday marking the end of Prince Khalid Bin Sultan's command of Arab forces in the anti-Iraq coalition. "We did not want for brotherly Iraq the hardship that took place, whether in the tough military days or these days in which the Iraqi people are suffering," the king said, referring to the six-week Gulf war and its aftermath.

Ethiopian premier kills himself

ROME (R) — A former Ethiopian acting premier sheltering in the Italian embassy in Addis Ababa has killed himself and three other senior fugitives have surrendered to the new authorities, an Italian official said on Monday. A foreign ministry spokesman said Haile Yemenu, acting premier until May, had apparently shot himself in the embassy grounds where he and six other senior figures of Ethiopia's deposed Marxist regime had sought refuge.

'Mao's widow killed herself

NEW YORK (AP) — A magazine reported Monday that the widow of Mao Tse-tung, Jiang Qing, had hanged herself. Chinese government officials refused comment. Time magazine quoted Beijing sources as saying Jiang, 77, killed herself late last month at a suburban villa where she had been under house arrest since her conviction in 1980 for helping carry out the cultural revolution. The sources for the magazine report were not further identified.

Iran tells its hajjis to behave

NICOSIA (R) — Iranian pilgrims in Saudi Arabia were told by their leader on Monday that they will be sent home immediately if they do anything to harm their country's image. Some 115,000 Iranians will make the annual hajj to Mecca this month for the first time since 400 people, most of them Iranians, were killed in clashes with Saudi security forces during an Iranian-led demonstration in the holy city in 1987. The Iranian news agency IRNA said Mohammad Mohammadi Reza Shahi, Iran's top haj official, spoke to clerics accompanying pilgrims in Medina, the second of Saudi Arabia's two holy cities. He warned against actions "which may harm the image and prestige of the Islamic Republic of Iran. In case such conduct is observed the person responsible in whatever position will immediately be sent back."

Police, demonstrators clash in Algiers

ALGIERS (R) — Riot police and Muslim fundamentalists clashed in central Algiers on Monday in the first serious confrontation since the country's election campaign started. Helmeted police fired round after round of tear gas grenades and brought in water cannon to try to disperse the radicals.

Royal Court releases King's interview with Le Point, but no shift in Jordan's position is seen

King: Taboos and cliches should disappear in process

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Royal Court yesterday released the text of an interview which His Majesty King Hussein gave to the French magazine Le Point on May 11, and informed sources said there was nothing in the interview that suggested any change in the Jordanian position on the question of Arab-Israeli talks to solve the Palestinian problem and the Middle East

conflict as a whole.

In the interview, which was published in the magazine on June 1, the magazine quoted the King as expressing willingness for face-to-face talks with Israel.

Israelis interpreted that as meaning that Jordan had come around to Israel's view that direct talks were the way to make peace, but the informed sources said it was incorrect to interpret

the King's remarks as breaking with the Arab view that negotiations should be through a Middle East peace conference.

"What the King said in the Le Point interview does not signal a change of policy," the informed sources said.

Following are major excerpts of questions and answers from the interview:

Q: From Your Majesty's discussions with the Americans what kind of final solution they are looking for?

A: I honestly cannot say what kind of "final solution." I don't like the term "final solution." However, there is a determination to move and try to resolve the problem. On the other hand,

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Iraq ready to export oil

VIENNA, Austria (Agencies) — Iraq, barred from selling oil during the Gulf crisis, is pumping about 450,000 barrels of crude a day but could quickly double that once international sanctions are removed, its oil minister said Monday.

"As soon as they lift the ban, we will be ready to go ahead," Usama Abdul Razzaq Al Hiti, the nation's newly appointed oil minister, said.

Iraq, once a leading crude exporter, was prohibited from selling oil after invading neighbouring Kuwait last August.

Under a U.N. ceasefire resolution, the economic sanctions are to be eased gradually as Iraq fulfills such conditions as destroying its chemical and biological weapons.

Al Hiti, attending the summer conference of the 13-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, is the first Iraqi oil chief to show up at the cartel since the invasion.

A soft-spoken man, he told reporters the oil industry is lifting about 450,000 to 500,000 barrels of crude a day for domestic use. Of that, he said, about 55,000 barrels are going to Jordan under a U.N. arrangement.

The industry could supply "over one million (barrels a day) in a very short time" once the sanctions are removed, he said.

Iraq produced about 3.1 million barrels a day before the Gulf crisis. With Iran, it was the second biggest OPEC producer after Saudi Arabia, the world's largest crude exporter.

Shortly after the invasion, OPEC scrapped its quota system so the nations could pump to capacity and make up for the shortfall of Iraqi and Kuwaiti crude.

At the midyear conference opening Tuesday, OPEC ministers are likely to put off the sensitive issue of Iraqi and Kuwaiti production since neither is expected to export much until late in the year.

In Paris, energy ministers of Western countries said on Monday they were wary of entering formal talks with oil-producing states.

The ministers, from rich industrial countries which coordinate their energy strategy through the Paris-based International Energy Agency (IEA), were meeting at a two-yearly policy forum to draw on the lessons of the Gulf crisis.

Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama told the IEA meeting that talks between oil producers and consumers could be worthwhile if they enhanced understanding between the two traditionally opposed camps.

U.S. Energy Secretary James Watkins was also cautious. He emphasized Washington's opposition to any price-fixing mechanisms and said the two groups already had extensive contacts.

Bush urges Israel to accept U.N. role in peace talks

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said on Monday that President George Bush had personally urged Israel to compromise and accept U.S. views on Middle East peace talks.

Shamir spoke after a closed session of the parliamentary foreign affairs and defence committee at which he has reported to have said that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker last month had demanded a role for the United Nations in a Middle East peace conference.

"This telegram contains an additional effort to persuade the candidates for these negotiations to accept the position of the United States," Shamir told reporters.

Bush sent personal message last week to each of the leaders in the region in an attempt to keep Washington's Middle East peace initiative alive.

"In his letter, Bush suggested

how he thought differences could be overcome," Shamir said.

A participant at the parliamentary meeting quoted Shamir as saying Baker had taken a harder position during his visit last month on including the United Nations in a conference.

"Baker insisted on U.N. participation. On previous visits he didn't make an issue of it. Now he really demanded it," Shamir was quoted as saying.

Baker, in the region four times since March, has tried to bridge Israeli and Syrian differences over the role of the United Nations and the format of a proposed peace conference.

Israel opposes any role for the United Nations in a conference while Syria wants the U.N. to be present.

"We would be ready to deposit any agreements with the U.N. and ask for the U.N. to ratify them. The U.S. wants more than

that," Shamir was quoted as saying.

In Washington, presidential spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said the letters, to the leaders of Syria, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Egypt, delivered over the past few days, were similar.

"The letters didn't present a new plan. They commented on the progress that had been made so far," Fitzwater said.

"We think there has been progress," he added.

"The parties are still discussing this matter. There are indications of interest and support from all of the countries involved and we're still working it," Fitzwater said.

Fitzwater told reporters he wouldn't comment on the content of the letters to the Middle East leaders. But, he said, they all carried "essentially the same message."

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Syria pulls troops out of Gulf

NICOSIA, Cyprus (Agencies) — Syria has joined Egypt in pulling its troops out of the Gulf region, dealing another blow to the idea of an Arab regional security force. But it may be too soon to count it out completely.

Egypt started bringing home 36,000 soldiers from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait last month, just weeks after an agreement for Damascus and Cairo to provide military clout to a force funded by oil-rich Gulf Arab states.

The withdrawal of the Egyptians and the Syrians so soon after the highly touted agreement points to deep divisions over the structure of the security force.

Egyptian military sources said the Kuwaitis had indicated a clear preference for Western troops. U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney has agreed to maintain U.S. ground troops in the emirate

for an unspecified number of months to come.

The Saudis said they wanted only their own troops on their soil, at least for the time being.

Still, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has said he is prepared to send forces back to the region whenever they are needed.

And experts from the six Gulf Cooperation Council members, Egypt and Syria are to meet shortly in Riyadh to begin work on a detailed agreement. They will report to a foreign ministers meeting that will be held later in Kuwait.

"I suspect what is happening is that people are seeing signs of impatience in setting up a force," Middle East analyst Don Kerr said about the news Monday that the Syrians were going home.

On Monday, newspapers in Damascus reported on their front

pages a terse dispatch by the official Syrian Arab News Agency.

It said: "Yesterday the first batch of our armed forces that were charged to defend the territory of Saudi Arabia and liberate Kuwait returned to the homeland, according to a decision made to that effect."

There was no other official comment.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa told reporters on Monday he would visit Damascus later this week to discuss Gulf security and the Middle East peace process with his Syrian counterpart, Farouq Al Sharaa. He gave no further details.

The United States has begun setting up depots for stockpiling weapons in the Gulf in case of

(Continued on page 5)

Israelis raid PLO positions in South Lebanon; 3 killed

SIDON, Lebanon (Agencies) — Israeli warplanes destroyed a PLO military intelligence office in south Lebanon on Monday, killing two guerrillas and a woman civilian, security sources reported.

The planes fired rockets into the two-storey office for PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's main-stream Fatah guerrilla faction in Miyeh-Miyeh refugee camp east of Sidon, 40 kilometres south of Beirut.

Guerrillas, firing rifles into the air, at first cordoned off the Fatah office, which was totally destroyed.

In Israel, an army communique said air force planes had attacked a Fatah position east of Sidon used for launching attacks on Israel.

The sources in Lebanon said the attack killed two Fatah fighters and a woman civilian and wounded seven fighters. The intelligence office was under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Kamal Midhat.

"This raid wasn't the first and will not be the last," Zeid Wehbeh, Arafat's personal representative in Lebanon, told reporters. "We always expect more raids and aggression from Israel."

Wehbeh said the Jewish state would never implement a U.N. Security Council resolution calling for an Israeli withdrawal from south Lebanon where it has established a security zone.

The warplanes struck as the Syrian and Lebanese foreign ministers exchanged letters of ratification in Beirut putting a

wide-ranging cooperation treaty between the two neighbours into effect.

Israel has condemned the treaty as the annexation of Lebanon by Syria, which says the pact guarantees Lebanese independence while strengthening special ties between Beirut and Damascus.

The treaty says Lebanon and Syria will support each other on security issues and work to coordinate their foreign policies.

Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens has said Israel would not allow the pact to threaten the security of the Jewish state.

It was the 11th Israeli air raid into Lebanon this year.

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A graduate from Mu'ta University Monday receives Prince Hassan during the graduation ceremony her diploma from His Royal Highness Crown (Petra photo)

Prince Hassan calls for review of educational process

KARAK (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Monday called for a review of higher education and the educational process in Jordan to enable it to deal with the country's growing problems, Jordan Television reported.

The educational system ought to be geared to cope with the burdens facing the Kingdom in view of the growing population and their socio-economic needs, said Prince Hassan at a ceremony for the graduation of students from Mu'ta University's civilian wing.

What the universities ought to do, he said, is to focus attention on various problems facing the nation and help find solutions. Prince Hassan congratulated the graduates and voiced appreciation to the university staff and those responsible for drawing up the university training program.

The Crown Prince said that profit made through these private universities should be measured in terms of their achievements for the Jordanian society.

He expressed belief that a serious revision of the specialisations would be rather tiring and strenuous if these specialisations are to cater for the society's real needs.

The Crown Prince reminded the graduates that university education was not an extension to school education but rather a stage for bridging the gap between university education and the time when they get employment.

A total of 375 male and female students from the civilian wings later received their diplomas from Prince Hassan at the ceremony attended by senior officials, university deans and staff as well as relatives of the students.

Palestinian groups vow to stop feuds

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Rival Palestinian groups appealed for unity in a joint leaflet on Monday, a day after they battled each other with guns in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

The clashes stemmed from Muslim fundamentalist anger at PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's endorsement of Palestinian contacts with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. Arafat condemned the fighting.

"We declare our rejection of all forms of differences and unruly behaviour which occurred from any party and against any one of us," said Monday's leaflet, signed by the PLO's Fatah movement and the Muslim fundamentalist Hamas.

The two groups are rivals for leadership of a 42-month-old Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"We stand in the same trench in the face of the Zionist-colonialist occupation," the leaflet added.

Four Palestinians were wounded in Sunday's clash in Nablus, the West Bank's largest city and a hotbed of Palestinian nationalism. The internecine fighting was the most serious since the uprising began.

Palestinians in the West Bank held para-military memorial marches on Monday for a senior Palestine Liberation Organisation leader who died in an Israeli prison two years ago after 21 years of imprisonment.

Relatives and friends of Omar Al Kassem, a central committee member of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, visited his grave and held a rally in his memory.

In the West Bank village of Idhna, near Hebron, Israeli soldiers shot and wounded three Palestinians travelling by car to Israel, residents said. There was no immediate explanation of the shooting.

Five other Palestinians were wounded in clashes in the northern West Bank town of Jenin, Arabs said.

France launches global arms control plan

PARIS (R) — France launched a global arms control plan on Monday with the announcement that it would sign the 1966 nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT), leaving China the only major nuclear power not party to the pact.

Its proposals, including curbs on conventional arms exports by the world's main suppliers, followed U.S. President George Bush's regional weapons control plan for the Middle East.

President Francois Mitterrand, who sent details in advance to allies and fellow permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, has said the proposals are complementary to, not in competition with, those of the United States.

"The complexity and extent of the problem makes it necessary to

take action by all available means," a five-page outline of the French plan said.

"Our objectives are clear. Chemical arms should be eliminated. Bacteriological arms should not be made. Existing nuclear arsenals should be brought back to the lowest level consistent with deterrence. Non-proliferation of nuclear arms remains imperative," it added.

It announced that the Security Council's "big five" — the United States, the Soviet Union, China, France and Britain — would send representatives to Paris in the next few weeks to discuss creating a United Nations' watchdog on conventional arms.

French observers believe the climate for arms control may be turning favourable.

2 women murdered

By Ahmad Kreishan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Two women were murdered in cold blood over the past two days, the Public Security Department (PSD) announced.

The murders took place in Baqaa refugee camp northwest of Amman and in Zarqa.

According to the PSD, a 27-year-old man from the Baqaa camp, identified only by his initials, stabbed his 15-year-old cousin to death at her school, killing her instantly.

The attorney general at the criminal court in Amman, Mohammad Jaradat, said the accused admitted that he killed his cousin because she turned him down when he proposed.

Feeling let down, the accused decided to take revenge on the girl. He stole a large knife from a store in the camp and waited for the girl in front of her school, the attorney general said.

When the girl finally appeared around 11:30 a.m. he immediately attacked her, stabbing her several times in the chest, the face and the back (Continued on page 5)

Air France operates 3rd flight

AMMAN (J.T.) — Air France (AF) Monday announced that it was operating a third flight due for the first time to operate from Amman on June 24. Thus AF will operate a total of 3 flights weekly every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday.

Scheduled departure from Amman 23:30, arriving in Charles-De-Gaulle 2 at 05:30 every Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday, consequently offering direct connections to 190 cities in 77 countries.

Algerian leader takes up fundamentalist challenge

ALGIERS (R) — Shaken by mass fundamentalist protests, campaigning for Algeria's first multiparty general elections moved into a third day Monday with the president warning he would not allow them to be defied.

Intervening for the first time, President Chadli Benjedid told the nation Sunday: "The state and the government will take all legal steps to ensure that the right conditions and atmosphere" (are maintained).

The Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), which has called an indefinite strike and brought thousands of protesters onto city streets, appeared ready to ignore his warning and pursue its protests.

A FIS leader, Abdelkader Boukhankham, said continued protests were the answer to Chadli's speech.

The demonstrations and strike

have increased divisions between FIS militants and opponents of their demand for an Islamic state and set the scene for more confrontations.

Veteran independence war leader Hocine Ait Ahmed, who heads the Socialist Forces Front (SFF), called Sunday for mass demonstrations on Thursday to counter those of the fundamentalists.

"We must save democracy to save Algeria," he said in a statement.

The Algerian newspaper, Le Quotidien d'Algerie, said Monday: "The homeland is in danger because democracy is in danger and it is there that the real jihad (holy war) is to be found."

The FIS says election laws favour the ruling National Liberation Front (FLN), headed by Chadli who paved the way to end its 27-year monopoly of power

with reforms in 1989.

It called an indefinite strike last month to demand changes in the law and presidential elections also June 27.

Several hundred pro-FIS high school students, due to sit examinations June 9, marched through the capital Monday waving Islamic flags and demanding an Islamic state.

"Neither work nor school before Chadli goes," they shouted, as riot police accompanied them to May 1st square, one of the assembly points for FIS demonstrators.

On Sunday, in central Algiers, hundreds of riot police fired tear gas and used water cannon against thousands of protesters blocking the streets, dispersing them some two hours before Chadli's speech.

In the last two days, the strike and demonstrations have dominated



Chadli Benjedid

ated public discussion and newspapers.

The independent newspaper El Watan said Chadli's speech was aimed at "breaking a silence which was becoming worrying and was leading to all sorts of interpretation."

It said Chadli, without naming the FIS, had put total responsibility on the party for the troubles shaking the country.

Khamenei rules out ties with Washington

By Samia Nakhoul

Reuter

TEHRAN (R) — Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, pledging continued adherence to the revolutionary legacy of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, Monday ruled out ties with the United States, denouncing it as a "symbol of bullying."

In a message to mark Tuesday's second anniversary of Khomeini's death, Khamenei rejected hardliners' claims that Iran had strayed from the path of the leader who toppled the pro-Western Shah and set up the Islamic republic.

He also paid glowing tribute to President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, whose moderate economic and foreign policies have been increasingly criticised by hardliners.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran rejects relations with the American regime which is a symbol of bullying and unjust domination, an epitome of oppression against weak nations," he said in the 30-minute message read for him on Tehran Radio.

Khamenei said Iran "will never establish relations with that (U.S.) regime as long as it arrogantly oppresses the nations, interferes in governments and countries, supports illegitimate regimes such as the hated Zionist regime (Israel), fights against freedom-seeking movements and the awakening of nations and remains hostile especially to the vanguard Muslim nation of Iran."

The United States broke diplomatic ties with Iran in April 1980 when 52 Americans staff of its embassy in Tehran were being held hostage.

U.S. President George Bush has said he wants better relations with Tehran but Iran should first help release a dozen Western hostages held by pro-Iranian militants in Lebanon.

Khamenei, 51, said the basis of Iran's diplomacy remained Khomeini's principle of "neither East, nor West."

But after the developments in the Soviet Union and the fall of communism in Eastern Europe, the principle meant "serious opposition to U.S. encroachments on the interests of the Muslim nation" and the new order Washington is setting up to serve its own interests, he said.

Khamenei rejected analyses that Iran had abandoned the revolutionary line of Khomeini, who died aged 86 after cancer surgery June 3, 1989.

"I strongly declare that this very play testifies to the helplessness of arrogance in confronting the Islamic revolution and to the continuation of his holy path in the cradle of the new Islamic system," he said.

More than 340 candidates for Lebanese parliament

By Samia Nakhoul

Reuter

Beirut — Almost 350 hopefuls, ranging from veteran feudal warlords to political newcomers with scant chance of success, have put their names forward for appointment to 40 seats meant to breathe new life into Lebanon's parliament.

But many expect little to change because younger sons of leading families are expected to replace their dead fathers who had ruled Lebanon since independence in 1943.

Nominations closed at midnight Saturday for candidates to be appointed by the cabinet Wednesday pending fresh elections once the country rids itself of foreign forces.

The last parliamentary elections were held in 1972, three years before the civil war began. The average age of the surviving members is 67.

The field also includes the wives of three dead deputies, including Naela Musawad, widow of the late President Rene Musawad who was killed by a car bomb 17 days after taking office in November 1989.

Some politicians have speculated that a prime qualification for success could be a relationship to a dead deputy.

The vacancies, the first in Lebanon's history to be filled by cabinet appointment, stem from the creation of nine new seats and the death or resignation of 31 deputies in 19 years.

The Syrian-backed government contends that general elections to the 108-seat single chamber legislature cannot be held until the whole country is under state control, 30 foreign forces and private armies cannot influence the polls.

The appointment of deputies is one provision of the Arab-backed Taif accord, which addresses political as well as security problems in ending the civil war.

The accord, drawn up by Parliament in October 1989 and signed into law by the president in September last year, divides parliament equally between Christians and Muslims. There were previously five Christian seats for every five Muslims.

Posters of virtually unknown candidates are plastered on cars and walls in Beirut alongside members of Lebanon's feudal elite.

Prime Minister Omar Karamei expected to replace his assassinated brother, was the first to register as a candidate.

Other leading contenders are Druze warlord Walid Jumblatt, again to replace his assassinated father, and Nabih Berri, leader of the Shi'ite Muslim Amal militia.

Many of the 348 candidates have appeared on television to present platforms ranging from improving roads and public services in the south to turning Lebanon into a vast arms factory to fight Israel.

"The big number of candidates is a good sign but a few of them are crazy," admits Information Minister Albert Masmoun.

Some candidates said they were standing to show support for the nearest thing Lebanon has to a democratic process. But they added they had little hope of winning because the seats would be filled by appointees of the traditional power brokers.

In addition to feudal warlords and militia chiefs, civilians such as teachers, lawyers, engineers and doctors are standing.

Samir Geagea, head of the Christian Lebanese Forces (LF) militia, is notably absent from the warlords seeking a seat.

Geagea rejected the appointment of deputies on the grounds that it is undemocratic. But the LF has put up two candidates.

France, a traditional ally of the once-dominant Christian Maronite community, has implicitly criticised the appointment of deputies by calling last week for a Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon before general elections.

Syria, which signed a wide-ranging cooperation treaty with Lebanon last month, says it would not interfere. But political sources expect many seats to be filled by its close allies.

"We know the appointment will take place anyway but we reject it because it is an insult to the rights of the people," said the LF's magazine Al-Masira Saturday.

"We cannot but feel sorry for Lebanon... once the oasis for democracy and freedom," said Masmoun, adding that since the Lebanese army took control of much of the country last month then elections could be held.

Ethiopia's new leader blames old regime for economic chaos

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Ethiopia's provisional leader says its former Marxist rulers have left it bankrupt — a grim message for millions of its citizens facing starvation from famine.

"The outgoing government left the country bankrupt," new interim leader Meles Zenawi said in a 15-minute television and radio broadcast Sunday night.

"The coffers are empty, the country has nothing to sustain it, even for a few days," he said in his first public speech in Addis Ababa since rebels of his Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) captured the capital last Tuesday.

Meles, 36, leader of the EPRDF, spoke as fears grew of a famine disaster in eastern areas with reports that fighting was preventing food aid from moving.

More than seven million people are threatened with starvation in Ethiopia this year because of drought and civil war in the impoverished Horn of Africa country.

Meles appealed for peace to allow his interim government to restore order and cautioned people against following "anti-peace elements" — a reference to anti-EPRDF demonstrations last week.

Meles said the EPRDF remained in control but he repeated assurances that an all-party conference would be held within a month to set up a transitional government.

He called on Ethiopians to be prepared for yet more austerity to help the new administration pull the country out of its economic quagmire.

Local residents said they were impressed by Meles's stark summary of the crisis.

Many Ethiopians feel betrayed by 14 years of administration by Marxist military ruler Mengistu Haile Mariam which had sent the economy into a nose-dive.

Reports of fighting in the southeastern town of Harar Sunday — probably between advancing EPRDF fighters and remnants of the old government's army — dashed hopes for an early resumption of famine relief to more than one million people in the east, many of them Somali refugees.

United Nations officials said they were worried relief supplies would not resume in time to save thousands of people from starving to death.

"I fear that we will be unable to get the operation going again in time to prevent a disaster," Michael Ellis, operations director of the U.N.'s World Food Programme (WFP), told Reuters.

Food convoys were halted in the region last week as law and order broke down.

Ellis said Friday United Nations and charity workers were the target of attacks during riots in Harar.

WFP transport chief Anders Ulin said one Ethiopian U.N. official was dragged from his hotel and shot dead in front of a mob. Another U.N. worker was detained in Harar and a third had gone missing, he added.

Meles Zenawi said Saturday that his troops controlled the town of Dire Dawa and were advancing towards Harar, about 70 kilometres to the north west.

Iraq says Bush's plan maintains Israel's power

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq Monday described U.S. President George Bush's initiative on halting the Middle East arms race as a plan to guarantee Israel's military superiority in the region.

In an editorial headlined "New proposals with old aims," the ruling Baath Party's daily newspaper, Al-Thawra said Bush wanted to impose an arms embargo on the Arabs without the removal of Israel's weapons of mass destruction.

Israel refuses to confirm or deny that it has nuclear arms, but international military sources say it possesses about 100 nuclear warheads and delivery missiles.

Some Arab analysts believe that Bush's arms control proposals would leave Israel's nuclear capability intact and enhance its military clout.

Al-Thawra's editorial also re-

ferred to U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney's announcement Friday that Washington was stockpiling weapons in Israel and had plans to pay more than 70 per cent of the cost of an Israeli anti-missile missile programme.

"Bush's plan and Cheney's statements coincide in their aims and results and both speak for an old American policy... guaranteeing the Zionist entity's strategic military superiority over the Arab countries altogether," the paper said.

Cheney said in Cairo Sunday the prepositioning of U.S. arms and ammunition in Israel did not contradict Bush's arms control plan which calls for limiting the flow of conventional arms to the Middle East and introducing a freeze followed by a ban on acquiring weapons of mass destruction.

Meguid starts post-crisis fence-mending mission

DHAHRAN, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Ezzat Abdul Meguid, the new secretary-general of the Arab League, arrived Monday in Saudi Arabia on a bid to end the rift in Arab ranks following the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait.

It was Meguid's first foreign trip since he was elected to head the 21-member league, headquartered in Cairo. Abdul Meguid was formerly Egypt's foreign minister for almost a decade.

Meguid came to the Gulf-side city of Dhahran at the start of his mission for a meeting with King Fahd.

He is expected to visit the other member states of the Gulf Coop-

eration Council (GCC) too. They are Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Bahrain and Qatar.

Meguid was also planning to visit Arab capitals outside the Gulf region.

With the exception of the Kuwaitis, Gulf leaders have been indicating that the wounds could slowly be healed in the interest of solving pan-Arab issues such as the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Shortly after his arrival, Meguid went into session with the six foreign ministers of the GCC alliance, who have been meeting since Sunday.

Allies' conditions complicate Iraqi people's lives

By Jonathan Wright

Reuter

BAGHDAD — President Saddam Hussein is in power to stay. Britain and the United States insist they will not relax sanctions until he goes.

In the meantime the Iraqis are suffering. Even those who support the West's wish President Saddam would step down see no further purpose in stopping Iraq from exporting its oil and buying food and medicines with the revenue.

Standards of living have been falling fast. Hundreds of thousands of Iraqis, possibly millions, depend on government food handouts at throw-away prices to keep them alive at subsistence levels.

Industry is at a standstill. Substitute goods are imported through Jordan at black market

prices that only businessmen and the ruling elite can afford.

The government blames the United States and its allies for the deadlock, saying the sanctions are an extension of the Gulf war, which in Baghdad's view was meant not merely to drive Iraqi forces out of Kuwait but to destroy Iraq.

Iraqi ministers say they have no intention of replacing the president, especially under pressure from abroad, and insist he would sweep the board in any free and fair elections.

"What gives you the right to say who should be president of Iraq? The people love him and trust him. If they have the choice between suffering and surrender, they will choose suffering," said Higher Education Minister Abdul Razzaq Hashimi.

Foreign diplomats say Presi-

dent Saddam has recovered from the debacle of Kuwait and the internal rebellions which followed in March. No one in Iraq believes any rivals, in the army or the Baath Party for example, are likely to oust him in the foreseeable future.

Iraqis in the street, who throughout the Gulf crisis rarely showed hostility to foreigners, have started to ask them why the sanctions must continue.

"Are we not human beings?... Why does President Bush hate the Iraqi people so much?" said civil servant Salem Al Arabi.

"They are punishing the people. Summer is upon us and diseases have started to break out. I cannot understand what purpose the blockade serves," Naama Al Naama, president of the Iraqi Bar Association, told Reuters.

Baghdad's official press has

raised hopes that food contracts with foreign companies, which Iraq desperately needs to ease shortages and bring down prices, are in the pipeline.

"A million tonnes of wheat for the next six months" a headline in the army newspaper Al Qadisiya said Sunday referring to talks with the Australian wheat board.

But the Australian deal depends on a third country releasing Iraqi assets worth \$155 million. Iraq has no assets in Australia.

In theory, U.N. member governments have been allowed since early May to unfreeze Iraqi funds to finance purchases of food, medicine and other goods for humanitarian purposes.

In practice, none have done so. "It looks like they are all waiting for the first to move," a U.N. official said.

Most of the assets are in the

United States, Britain, Japan and Switzerland — a group which includes the two countries most opposed to easing the pressure on the Iraqi government.

A total end to the sanctions depends on Iraq complying with a long list of conditions on war reparations, nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, and the return of valuables taken from Kuwait during Iraq's seven-month occupation.

Iraq is cooperating with the U.N. commissions enforcing the U.N. resolutions but Iraqis and diplomats in Baghdad wonder if compliance will help Iraq out of its economic predicament.

"It would be unjust to maintain the sanctions if the Iraqis do what the U.N. has stipulated. But the Americans and the British say that's what they intend to do," said a diplomat from Eastern

Europe.

Apart from reducing many Iraqis to subsistence, the sanctions are depriving Iraq or essential drugs for typhoid, of baby formula for infants and of chlorine to keep the water supplies pure in the major cities.

Relief organisations can bring in some amounts of these goods but only unfreezing Iraqi assets or allowing oil sales can generate enough funds to pay for everything that is needed.

The only good news for Iraqis this week was that the government had found \$15 million with which to buy vegetables from Jordan.

The vegetables, too expensive for many poor people to buy on the free market, would be distributed through government shops at the cheapest price possible, the semi-official newspaper Babal said Sunday.

Iraq sends tanks into Kurdish town

BAGHDAD (R) — The Iraqi army has sent tanks into the Kurdish town of Sulaimaniya after gun battles between Iraqi security forces and gunmen assumed to be Kurdish peshmarga guerrillas, travellers from the town said Monday.

At least one Kurd was killed Thursday and a group of some 30 Kurds dumped his body in the grounds of a United Nations office in the town, apparently in the hope of prompting U.N. intervention, they said.

Until a few days ago, the Iraqi army had sent only lightly armed troops in Sulaimaniya, mainly to protect government offices and personnel.

Its armour was stationed on the southeast and western outskirts of the town, which fell into Kurdish rebel hands for one month up to early April.

There have also been shooting incidents in Irbil, the capital of the Kurdish autonomous region, and Sunday hundreds of Kurds

demonstrated in the town of Zakho to demand that allied forces should not withdraw from the area.

U.N. officials said the developments in Kurdistan were disturbing, especially as talks between the Kurdish leaders and the Baghdad government do not seem to have made any progress.

A Kurdish delegation led by Massoud Barzani, head of the Kurdish Democratic Party, checked out of a Baghdad hotel nine days ago. It has not been seen since.

An Iraqi ministry of information official said last Monday that the delegation was still in Baghdad, the talks were continuing and were making progress.

The Baghdad press had not mentioned the talks for a week and Barzani's colleague, Jalal Talabani of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, said in a radio interview last week that negotiations were stalled over the borders of a new autonomous region.

Accused Kuwaiti soldier: government negligent

KUWAIT (R) — A former Kuwaiti soldier on trial for alleged collaboration with the Iraqi occupation army accused the emirate's authorities Monday of failing to protect the country against the invaders.

"The government did not carry out its duties, protect the nation and prepare the armed forces, Farag Nassar, bearded and wearing a blue thobe (robe) told the martial law court.

"The government gave half the armed forces leave although it knew that Iraq was massing troops on the border for a month," said Nassar who, like the bulk of the Kuwaiti armed forces rank-and-file, is a stateless Arab. He is charged with aiding the Iraqis and weakening the morale of Kuwaitis during Iraq's seven-month occupation.

The only good news for Iraqis this week was that the government had found \$15 million with which to buy vegetables from Jordan.

The vegetables, too expensive for many poor people to buy on the free market, would be distributed through government shops at the cheapest price possible, the semi-official newspaper Babal said Sunday.

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Wall Street

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Amman's Super DISCO

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JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 77311-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:30	Les Raisons Levantes
18:35	Science Cauche
19:00	News in French
19:15	Aujourd'hui en Jordanie
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Perfect Strangers
21:10	Adventures in Space
22:20	News in English
22:30	Columbo
PRAYER TIMES	
03:55	Fajr
05:27	(Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:33	Dhuhr
16:13	'Asr
19:38	Maghreb
20:10	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Jericho Tel. 810740.	
Assumption of God Church, Tel. 62785, 68524.	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terra Nova Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.	
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543.	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.	
Anglican International Church Tel. 685326.	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295.	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 815817, 649232.	
Church of the Nazareth Tel. 675691	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
Further drop in temperature is expected and winds will be northerly moderate. In Amman, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	
Amman	Min./Max. temp. 12 / 28
Amman	20 / 35
Deserts	12 / 31
Jordan Valley	19 / 34

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 26, Aqaba 33. Humidity readings: Amman 29 per cent, Aqaba 18 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Tayseer Saudi	777636
Dr. Wafiq Dumani	774800
Dr. Jamil Mawajid	770046
Dr. Abdul Qader Lala	696048
Fines pharmacy	661912
Ferdous pharmacy	778535
Al Asena pharmacy	637055
Natrukh pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Stoneland pharmacy	637660

IRBID:

Dr. Fathi Al Jabour	(—)
Al Sarsas pharmacy	(27825)

ZARQA:

Dr. Ezzeddine Abdul Salam	(—)
Khalifah pharmacy	95417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Institute	661111
Rescue	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891278
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	605800
Price Complaints	661116
Water and Sewerage	661116
Complaints	871467
Amman Municipality	669131
Complaints	787111
Telephone Information	667722

(directory assistance) 121

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone

Repair	623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661191
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power	666111
Emergency	636381
RJ Flight Information	08-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport	08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Human Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn.	64281/6
Akhleh Maternity, J. Amn.	64244/2
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Mafkas, J. Amman	626140
Palestine, Shmeicani	664171/4
Shmeicani Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845845
Wassil Hospital	667722

The Islamic, Abdali 666112

Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641

Kaduna, Al-Matragren 777111

Al-Saleh, J. Amman 7721

Army, Marka 891161

Queen Alia Hospital 602222

Amal Hospital 67

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)98
Shams National Hospital	(09)98
Ben Sira Hospital	(09)98

IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital	(02)27
Great Catholic Hospital	(02)27
Ibn Al-Nafes Hospital	(02)34

AQABA:

Princess Hayat Hospital	(03)31
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FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is provided by

Investigation continues into biggest smuggling operation in eastern Jordanian desert

AMMAN (J.T.) — A spokesman for the Public Security Department (PSD) Monday said that investigation was continuing into the aborted smuggling of nearly 160 kilograms of hashish near the border with Iraq, Syria and Saudi Arabia, one day after the police announced busting the operation.

"We are still looking into the matter and cannot disclose where the hashish came from and where it was going," the spokesman said.

The PSD said Sunday that border police patrols aborted what was termed as the biggest smuggling operation yet in the eastern desert region of the Kingdom following a 40-kilometre chase in the desert and an exchange of fire with the smugglers.

Many nomadic tribes live in the uncharted area, a haven for smugglers, and often move between Jordan, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Syria to graze their cattle.

Drug abuse is virtually unknown in Jordan, but dealers use the Kingdom to transport hashish, heroin and other drugs to third countries.

A spokesman for the Customs Department in Amman said that an anti-smuggling patrol from the border police units seized 884 packets of hashish from the smugglers who used several vehicles in their illegal operation, capturing all those involved.

The patrol did not reveal the number or the nationality of the smugglers.

The spokesman said that border police had to exchange fire with the smugglers and to chase them in the Jordanian desert before capturing them and impounding their vehicles.

The spokesman did not disclose when the abortive operation took place.

According to the same spokesman, customs officials in the eastern regions of the Kingdom stopped

smugglers bringing into the country 12,000 heads of sheep, for which they have to pay JD 144,000, and 50 tonnes of copper, for which they must pay JD 60,000 in duty and fines.

The spokesman again failed to say when these operations took place.

The spokesman said last week that the customs officials at the Ramtha border post seized the following illicit merchandise which they found in secret compartments of a number of vehicles entering the Kingdom: 4,640 kilograms of hashish, 50 grams of heroin, 97,000 captagon pills, 875 wrist watches. In addition, the spokesman said, the police at the Ramtha border post seized two other kilograms of heroin from another group of smugglers in the past week.

In July last year, an army patrol shot dead four armed men when they tried to infiltrate into Jordanian territory from Syria.

Women activists could face Military Court

By Issam Qadmani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — At least 15 members of the former women federation in Jordan could be facing trial at the Military Court for holding illegal gatherings, creating public disturbance and uttering curses against a Ministry of Social Development committee entrusted with supervising new federation elections.

The new development, which is linked to a long-standing dispute between the federation members and the Ministry of Social Development, came about Monday when the prosecutor general asked the Court of Appeals to refer the whole issue to the Military Court, which, he said, is the sole authority responsible for handling such issues.

The Court of First Instance, which earlier had dealt with the case of the 15 women, ruled that they were innocent and that such disturbance was expected in any election atmosphere. But the prosecutor general insisted that the case go to the Military Court which has not yet decided on any proceedings.

Former Minister of Social Development Abdul Majid Shridah, who appointed the committee to supervise the federation's election, sued the 15 women for improper behaviour towards government employees and the First Instance Court examined the case in April this year.

Court officials here said that there was no word yet on whether the Court of Appeals would refer the case to the Military Court.

The members of the previous board of the women federation had earlier sent an appeal to Prime Minister Mudar Badran calling for the abrogation of the elections organised by the Ministry of Social Development through a specially appointed executive committee and claimed that those elections were illegal.

The women said that new elections should take place free of any influence now that the Higher Court of Justice had ruled on Jan. 27 that the previous elections, held on Aug. 27 of last year, were null and void.

The dispute involved secular and Islamic groups who have been fiercely competing for the domination of the women federation in Jordan.

The memorandum to the prime minister charged that the Ministry of Social Development and the executive committee it had appointed were delaying the implementation of the court's verdict in a bid to contest the by-laws of the federation and deprive independent members of their voting rights.

However, the ministry said in a letter published in Al Rai daily recently that the elections were only pending the settlement of certain administrative matters and that the elections would be held in due course.

Exhibition marks anniversaries

AMMAN (Petra) — As part of the Kingdom's celebrations of the Independence Day, the Army Day and the Great Arab Revolt anniversary, a comprehensive national book exhibition was opened Monday at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC).

The eleven-day exhibition displays publications by the Ministry of Culture and Youth in addition to publications by local publishing houses and Al Al Bait Foundations.

Queen meets Arab-Americans in Washington

AMMAN (J.T.) — On the final leg of her working visit to the United States, Her Majesty Queen Noor met in Washington, D.C., with representatives of Arab-American organisations and exchanged views on ways to promote understanding between the Arab and American peoples and was briefed on their activities. The Queen also attended a reception by the Jordanian community in Washington, D.C., celebrating Jordan's Independence Day.

The Queen met with the heads and staff of a number of relief and aid organisations who serve in

Jordan. At the American Red Cross, the Queen — who together with His Majesty King Hussein, is the honorary co-president of the Jordanian Red Crescent — discussed with its president, Elizabeth Dole, support to Jordan during the Gulf crisis as well as means of future cooperation with the Red Crescent.

Queen Noor and the accompanying delegation met with the International Task Force, an independent coalition of 132 private voluntary organisations that provide humanitarian assistance to developing countries. The

Queen explained Jordan's and the region's difficult socio-economic circumstances in the wake of the Gulf war and thanked the task force for their assistance to Jordan and the evacuees, which included development, refugee and resettlement, assistance as well as disaster relief.

Queen Noor visited the American Near East Refugee Aid (ANERA), the principal U.S. voluntary agency that provides humanitarian assistance to Palestinians in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Lebanon and Jordan in the areas of agriculture, health

care, education and social development. The Queen explained the difficult conditions of Palestinians living under Israeli occupation and expressed appreciation for ANERA's role in alleviating the suffering of the Palestinians and in helping to upgrade their quality of life. ANERA's most

recent work in the West Bank has been with the Agricultural Marketing Information Centre in Amman, which will provide the West Bank and Gaza with market information related to the Arab World to help market their agricultural products.

Japan intends to expand ties with Jordan — envoy

By Nur Sati
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Japanese Ambassador to Jordan Tadayuki Nonoyama Monday expressed Japan's intention to expand its assistance in a number of fields in the country as well as bolstering Japanese-Jordanian relations.

As part of Japan's intentions to enhance its relations with Jordan, Japanese delegations have been arriving in the country to discuss ties between the two nations. The ambassador said that Japan was exerting all efforts to bring its people to visit the Kingdom.

Earlier this week, a Japanese parliamentary delegation arrived in Jordan to discuss means of enhancing bilateral ties. During the discussions, Crown Prince Hassan, stressed the importance of Asia in maintaining world security and economic stability.

According to Mr. Nonoyama, "Jordanian-Japanese relations have been very cordial, but we hope that these relations would again expand, mainly regarding the exchange of persons." He explained that he would like to have more Jordanians coming to Japan.

Japan values Jordan because, according to Mr. Nonoyama, King Hussein is very much liked and respected among the Japanese public and "we regard Jordan as the key country for the Middle East stability and for the solution of the Palestinian issues as well as the Arab-Israeli conflict."

Mr. Nonoyama believes that Japan's assistance to Jordan has helped stabilise the economy as well as contribute to the stability of the region. "Aside from political relations,

we are hoping to expand in other fields such as the cultural and business sectors," he said. As far as the economic and business aspects are concerned, he continued, "my country will continue economic cooperation with Jordan."

In terms of technical cooperation, the ambassador said that there were eight Japanese experts working in Jordan and 29 Japanese volunteers in various departments.

Mr. Nonoyama intends to expand on this as well. "We have just established a Japanese International Corporation Agency (JICA) office whereby we are sending Japanese experts to Jordan and receiving Jordanian trainees and students to train in various technical fields."

A computer centre is in the process of being built. Its main objective would be to train students from Jordan and other Arab countries. "As soon as the building is finished, at the end of the summer, we will send three experts along with equipment for the centre," Mr. Nonoyama said.

On the business level, because of the economic situation in the country and the region as a whole, present business activities are limited, according to the ambassador. But he sees some "potential."

One aspect of Japan's plans is to increase the number of tourists visiting Jordan. On other developments, there is a project currently in the planning stage, of establishing a fertiliser factory. "The joint venture would involve combining the three raw materials needed to manufacture fertiliser and export it to Japan and other Asian countries," Mr. Nonoyama explained.

The ambassador also expressed hope of expanded



Tadayuki Nonoyama

cultural ties. "At the moment, we provide scholarships to two or three students. We used to have at least three to four Japanese students studying in Jordan. We hope to enhance these activities," he said. There is also expectancy of establishing a Japanese study centre at the University of Jordan. "If this generates interest, then we will form this centre so that Jordanians can learn the Japanese language and its culture among other things," Mr. Nonoyama told the Jordan Times. "We intend to donate audio-visual equipment to Jordan Television and the Ministry of Education."

As Japan has been acknowledged as the biggest contributor to the world at large, Mr. Nonoyama stated that major assistance to Jordan has been providing help to the Palestinian refugees. "Our general contribution has been to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) which receives \$10 million each year for its activities," the ambassador told the Jordan Times. Japan has also contributed around \$70-\$80 million

for food supplies. Other contributions include \$20 million per year to UNRWA.

"We are putting great emphasis on the development of human resources, for education and vocational training for the younger people," the ambassador said.

In the West Bank, a community centre was set up in response to a request related to the development of human resources. In order to attain economic and social development in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, a Japanese-Palestinian fund was set up through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). "So far we donated \$7.1 million since 1988," Mr. Nonoyama said.

Japan recently donated \$700 million to Jordan as an aid package; some of the amount would be used for Jordanian and Palestinian returns from the Gulf countries. Japan hopes to continue expanding ties in the economic, business, cultural and political domains. "We would like to help in solving the Middle East issue," the ambassador said.

Last week, Japan's Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama visited Iran, Egypt and Israel. The foreign minister urged the Israelis to comply with the Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 and specifically urged the Israelis to withdraw from the occupied territories. The foreign minister also requested Israel to stop the Jewish settlements in the occupied territories and to take a more positive attitude towards solving the conflict.

Japan's stand vis-a-vis the Palestinian issue is that the problem should be solved on the basis of resolutions 242 and 338. Japan also supports the establishment of a Palestinian state.

1,980 crimes committed in April

AMMAN (Petra) — A total of 1,980 small and major crimes were committed in Jordan during April 1991, registering 393 more than those committed in the same month of last year; 78.6 per cent of the crimes were discovered and handled by the police, according to a statistical bulletin issued by the Criminal Investigations Division at the Public Security Department (PSD) Monday.

Of these, the bulletin said, 1,609 crimes were committed by minors.

The increase in the number of crimes over those of April 1990, the bulletin noted, were in thefts and muggings, while robberies accounted for nearly 33 per cent of the total number of crimes.

The bulletin noted that Amman witnessed the highest rate of crimes, accounting for 886, followed by Irbid with 316 and

Balqa Governorate with 137, the rest occurred in Karak, Maan, Zarqa, Badiya, Ajlun, Tafleh, Madaba and Maqad.

A total of 571 persons, including 13 women, 66 foreigners, mostly Egyptians, Filipinos, Sri Lankans, and Syrians, were involved in these robberies last April, the bulletin pointed out.

Nearly 29 per cent of those involved in the robberies were aged between 18 and 27, while nearly 25 per cent of the rest of the robberies were committed by unemployed persons, the bulletin added.

It said that the robbers had their eyes on cash money and jewellery, with very few stealing pieces of furniture and electrical appliances; fewer persons specialised in stealing animals and birds as well as auto spare parts.

According to the PSD statement, April witnessed the occurrence of six murders, against seven in the same month of last year, but it noted that all the murders, three of which occurred in Amman, were discovered.

The murderers were six people, two of them women, including a Sri Lankan, the bulletin explained. It said there were nine cases of attempted murder last April, compared to 14 in April of 1990.

Of April's crimes, there were 25 suicide attempts, resulting mostly from family disputes, and there were 64 crimes related to immoral behaviour, against 46 in the same month of the last year.

The bulletin noted that April witnessed 32 firing incidents resulting in the death of four persons and the injury of 12 others.

Glass factory chief, workers give conflicting accounts to visiting minister

MAAN — Minister of Industry and Trade Ziad Fariz Monday inspected the glass factory near Maan and heard the workers' complaints about the obstacles, which, they said, were responsible for the decline in production. The minister first heard a general production report from the factory Director Farid Obeid who said that the factory produced nearly 60 tonnes of plain and tinted glass per day.

Mr. Obeid said last year's production registered a drop, reaching only 10,000 tonnes, largely due to outdated equipment used in production.

His views were countered by Khaled Zaher Shweiter, chairman of a workers' committee, who said the quality of glass declined due to the employment of sand instead of dolomite, with the results that the factory sustained JD 500,000 in losses.

Mr. Shweiter also said that production was brought to a halt for some time because of a series of faulty machines. He said that continued changes of plans by the supervisors and lack of coopera-

tion between the factory director and the workers as well as the lack of a proper laboratory to test the materials and the lack of proper safety measures for workers have contributed to the present situation.

Mr. Shweiter demanded that the factory ensure proper housing for the workers, who he said, should get overtime and shift allowances. He also said the workers, should have a health insurance scheme, with a special ambulance to provide immediate medical services, and other measures that would improve their living conditions.

Mr. Shweiter told the minister that the factory management had bought an automatic glass cutter, for JD 250,000, some time ago, but it was never put into use.

He also complained that due to the lack of proper occupational safety conditions many of the workers sustained injuries, some serious, causing permanent disability.

Mr. Shweiter urged the minister to help improve working conditions at the glass factory and to

stop excesses, which, he said, might cause the total collapse of the glass factory on which 270 families depend for a living.

In contrast, Mr. Obeid made a statement last March, giving a bright picture about the conditions in the factory and noting that most of the production was being marketed in Tunisia, Libya, Yemen, Egypt and Sudan, with Egypt importing up to 40 per cent of the total amounts of tinted glass.

Mr. Obeid, however, admitted, that the factory sustained losses last year as a result of the losses of the Gulf markets and the embargo imposed on Iraq and Jordan, during the crisis, which prevented the factory from exporting products or importing raw materials.

According to Mr. Obeid's March statement, the factory made a JD 1.5 million profit in 1989, and this year was hope that it would make a bigger profit. But he said that the factory last year sold glass for an estimated JD 4 million, down from JD 5 million on average in the previous years.

UNDP continues support of programmes for the deaf

AMMAN (J.T.) — The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Monday announced the completion of a project for the establishment and improvement of programmes for the deaf. For the just completed project, UNDP brought Dr. Robert Moulton to Jordan to train a group of pre-school teachers of deaf children.

Previous projects included a sign language interpreter training programme and assistance in planning for a model pre-school for deaf children.

Dr. Moulton is the associate vice president for research and dean of graduate studies at Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas. Dr. Moulton has been

working with programmes for the deaf since 1968 and has had international deaf education experience in China and Mexico as well as Jordan.

Dr. Moulton arrived in Jordan on May 16 and has been busy training a group of 23 pre-school teachers of the deaf at the National Speech and Hearing Center. Dr. Moulton explains that although pre-schools for the deaf are rare or non-existent in the Arab World, they are critical for language and academic development of deaf children. He notes that Al Ibtisam Model Pre-school for the Deaf, located at Al Raja School for the Deaf, has recently been constructed and will have its first class of pre-

school deaf children this fall.

Dr. Moulton said that thanks to the United Nations Development Programme and other cooperating agencies, programmes for the deaf in Amman have the potential to become models for the region.

Ms. Manal Hamzeh, director of the National Speech and Hearing Center, said that Dr. Moulton would propose in a meeting on June 4th in New York a five-year plan which will consist of teacher training programmes, deaf leadership programmes and interpreting training programmes sign language documentation programmes and T.V. programmes produced by and for the deaf.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITION

- ★ Exhibition of etchings, lithographs and monographs, by Ahmad Nawash and Yasser Duweik at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation (10 a.m. — 5 p.m.)
- ★ Exhibition of photographs by Bernard Gullet at the French Cultural Centre — 6:00 p.m.

Jordan Times
Tel —
667171

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King honours outgoing envoy

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday conferred Al Istiqlal Medal of the First Order on Austrian Ambassador to Jordan Franz Pernegger who is ending his tour of duty in Jordan. The medal, which was presented to the ambassador at a lunch party by Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri, was in appreciation of his important services to the Kingdom's relations with Austria.

Archaeologists to visit site

AMMAN (J.T.) — Director of the Department of Antiquities Safwan Al Tal and a group from the French Embassy will Tuesday visit Khirbet Al Darh, an archaeological site that has been excavated by a 20-member team of French and Jordanian archaeologists. The site, which lies not far from the Nabatean city of Petra, is believed to have also been built by Nabateans. Mr. Tal Monday paid an inspection visit to the Irbid Governorate where he inspected museums and excavation sites.

Jordanian Society For the Control of Environmental Pollution

Friedrich Naumann Foundation

INVITATION

To the general public on the occasion of

"THE INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENT DAY"

On June 5th, 1991 at 10:00 a.m. at the

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

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Editorial and advertising offices:

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Letters and trump cards

THE much publicised letters of U.S. President George Bush to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir ostensibly prodding them to accept U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's peace proposals may suggest that Washington views both Damascus and Tel Aviv as equally responsible for the stalemate in the peace process. On closer look, however, the Syrian position on the terms and conditions of the peace process is in no way comparable with Israel's. The Syrians, as indeed all the other Arab parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict, call for assurances that the relevant U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 will be implemented at the end of the day. The Arab insistence that the U.N. has a place in the quest for a permanent and just settlement in the Middle East happens to correspond also with the wish of the international community and serves as added inducement to the parties to negotiate in good faith and on the basis of international legitimacy. When the European countries or Japan submit that they too want to be a party to peace efforts in addition to the presence of the two superpowers, this request corresponds faithfully with the Arab posture. On the other side of the coin, the Israeli government seeks to divorce the proceedings related to the peace conference from the watchful eyes of the world in a bid to conceal it from the scrutiny of the community of nations. Tel Aviv's avowed aim of course is to get away with its own interpretation of Resolutions 242 and 338 by suggesting that the construction of these U.N. decisions is indeed up to the parties and not to the international community as reflected in 242 and 338.

Nevertheless the two-pronged U.S. strategy to target both Syria and Israel equally for a more active involvement in the peace process may be vindicated only if the contents of the two Bush letters are fundamentally different.

There is little that is known about the substance of the U.S. president's communication with the Syrian and Israeli leaders even though the ultimate aim in both situations is to prod both countries to move on with the search for peace in the area by allaying their respective fears and suspicions. What remains is to gauge how persuasive Mr. Bush has been in his new effort to salvage Mr. Baker's initiative from the doom and gloom that seem to await it. If the American president fails in this one then there will be little hope of resurrecting the secretary of state's efforts to resolve the Palestinian problem. What comes next is open to conjecture although there is a wide consensus that extremists on both sides of the fence will find in the defeat of peace efforts a very fertile climate for growth and proliferation. In turn all the talk about the new order in the region would become a mirage never to materialise or take root. In the final analysis what would make or break the chances of the new order is the degree to which Washington's clout could be translated into operational deeds. As long as the strongest nation on earth keeps on hammering the point that it will not pressure Israel to accommodate the overwhelming yearning for peace in this part of the world, it would in effect forsake its trump card before the hand is dealt to the parties.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Monday compared Washington's stand towards the Gulf crisis and the situation in Lebanon on the one hand and its attitude towards the Middle East issue on the other. The U.S. defence secretary has announced that Washington can only play the role of a mediator, and would never impose peace on the parties involved in the Middle East issue, said the paper. The paper noted that Washington did not exercise the role of a mediator in the Gulf and the Lebanese questions, but sent in troops to deal with the situation by itself although in both instances the United Nations Security Council had issued pertinent resolutions. In the Lebanese and the Gulf issues Washington sent its troops and took action to prevent the Arab countries from containing these issues but in the Middle East issue, the U.S. president sufficed himself with issuing one initiative after another without taking any practical step to end the conflict, the paper noted. By issuing his initiative to disarm the Middle East, President Bush hoped to find a way out of the present dilemma facing Washington caused by Israel's outright rejection of the Baker's plan, the paper noted. The paper also expressed the view that the U.S.-Israeli strategic alliance is not only limited to maintaining Israel's military superiority over the Arab World, but rather to ensure Israel's continued expansionist policies in the Arab region. We have no doubt that the United States and its Western allies together with Israel are able to impose their unjust solution on the Arabs. But, the paper said, we dare ask whether such solution can contribute positively towards creating the so-called new world order which is supposed to be fair to all nations.

A columnist in Al Dastour daily discusses the question of factories which continue to dump waste and untreated water in the Zarqa river and at the same time escape retribution. Mohammed Dneel says that Jordan television two days ago presented a grim picture of the situation showing that most of the factories are not abiding by the public safety regulation concerning the disposal of waste and that the water flowing to the King Talal Dam continues to be polluted. The writer notes that the factories require more than three months in order to install proper equipment that can do the job and ensure proper treatment of the waste water; and for this reason, and as long as the contaminated water continues the flow towards the King Talal Dam, crops irrigated with the water are bound to continue to sustain damage no less than the damage sustained by crops in the winter season, the writer notes. He says that any delay in installing the proper treatment equipment can do harm to the national economy which largely depends on the agricultural sector. The writer calls on the government not only to help end this source of disaster, but also to refrain from issuing any licences for new factories before studying all the requirements of public health safety of any factory, and also urges the government to maintain strict control over the operating factories to reduce to a minimum the level of contamination to river water.

Government, journalists bear equal responsibility for poor media practices

By Waleed Sadi

HIS Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's keynote speech Thursday to the IPS Council on Information and Communication for International Development in Rome is a must reading to all those who take interest in journalism and journalistic practices especially in the Third World. It was a magnificent discourse on the role of the press and the qualifications of those who serve it. After arguing forcefully in support of a "New Order to Understanding" of Third World societies, Prince Hassan went on to spell out the heavy burdens that lie on the shoulders of journalists from these countries. Above all, the Crown Prince reminded Third World journalists, "we are not only Arabs and Jews, Muslims and Christians, Jordanians and Israelis. We are citizens of the same planetary ship, creatures who may have had a different past but who certainly share a common future."

It is in this very setting that journalists from the Arab and Muslim worlds need to conduct their mission. With this perspective in mind they must begin to reflect, analyse and pass judgments. Often peoples of the world, developed and underdeveloped, lose sight of these cardinal propositions which causes them to engage in quarrels and rivalries that are conceived in bigotry, and reduced to caricatures and stereotypes. And as home sapiens go on pursuing their short sighted and immediate goals unperturbed and unconscious of more sublime pursuits, greater and more profound issues loom in the horizon, the loss of species, deforestation, future water supplies for ten billion people will surely dominate the agenda of the next century, the Crown Prince said. In the same vein, Prince Hassan warned against the spread of state-sponsored environmental terrorism as well as food and water terrorism, which he feels may threaten global security and stability at the turn of the century and beyond.

The Crown Prince also classified many Arab and Third World journalists as being woefully inadequate especially in their coverage of domestic issues. Some of them, he asserted, tend to be little more than government propagandists, "afraid to bite the hand that feeds them."

"Some media bosses," Prince Hassan went on to say, "see their business only as a lucrative venture," while "others are power hungry aspirants to political elitism" seeking proximity to the centre of power.

These thought-provoking observations, no doubt require a fuller debate and discussion. For while one cannot always blame governments for all such ills in the profession of journalism in the Third World, one cannot concurrently absolve such governments from all responsibility in promoting such expediency in journalism. Many of the barons of journalism in the developing world were reared and nurtured by regimes that promoted undemocratic rule for decades on end. Only in a democratic setting and a free environment there can be hope to address these fatal flaws in the conduct of journalists and journalism.

One must not lose sight of the fact that many would-be objective and responsible journalists ended up in the jails of the Third World countries simply for trying to be what we aspire them to be. This does not free the press society from the responsibility to wage wars on the tyrannical tendencies in their countries and oppose their incursions on their domain. Being "a key element in a pluralistic system of checks, balances and accountability," they could have won the battle against despotism in their countries had they mastered the techniques of honest and objective journalism and pursued them responsibly and courageously. The people of Jordan witnessed in the last few years how old journalistic barons were jettisoned, not only by popular demand but also in cooperation with the central government of the country. It takes a wise leadership to nurture democratic rule in the country, and promote free and responsible press. Without these trends, positive journalistic reporting would have no chance to see the light of the day.

Turkey faces difficult foreign policy options

By Shireen Elzetter

ONE of the countries which had a sharp profile during the Gulf crisis was Turkey. Indeed, given its long borders with Iraq and its membership in NATO, Turkey could hardly have kept out of it. Nevertheless, the zeal and open publicity with which Turkey — or, more accurately, its president, Mr. Turgut Ozal — threw in its lot with the coalition against Iraq was a new phenomenon in modern Turkish diplomacy.

The legacy of Kemal

Historically, Turkey's regional diplomacy has been guided by two key Kemalist principles: developing and maintaining relations with its neighbours which, if not always friendly, are at least not antagonistic; and avoiding entanglement in disputes that do not directly and immediately affect Turkey's security and well-being.

The Kemalist philosophy of Turkey's foreign relations was influenced by two underlying concerns and by the aspirations of post-imperial Turkey — namely, to shed its Ottoman past and heal rifts with Iran and the Arab World; and to point Turkey in the direction of Europe.

During the 1950s and '60s, Turkey became involved in such Middle East security arrangements as the Baghdad Pact and its successor, the Central Treaty Organisation (CENTO). Early on, Turkey also recognised Israel, and the two have since maintained close ties. Yet largely because of the cautious and low-key style of its diplomacy, Turkey managed to maintain reasonable relations with nearly all Arab states and avoided any significant Arab opprobrium for its relations with Israel. Turkey's situation is in sharp contrast with, for example, that of Iran under the shah, which became a particular target of Arab — especially radical Arab — animosity, partly because of the overly assertive, almost provocative, style of its diplomacy. Even throughout the Iran-Iraq war, Turkey achieved the seemingly impossible task of staying on reasonably good terms with both belligerents, and it reaped considerable financial benefits from the war.

Ozal's new outlook

During the second Gulf war, however, Turkey openly and decisively sided with the coalition against Iraq and thus alienated large segments of Arab public opinion, even if it pleased some Arab governments. Commentary in the Arab World has characterised Turkey's attitude as being reminiscent of its Ottoman past and proof of a resurgence of "Ottomanism." Furthermore, parallels have been drawn between Israel's occupation of Arab lands and Turkey's occupation of northern Cyprus. Turkey's long-standing ties with Israel have also received new attention and are being viewed in a critical light by many Arabs.

No doubt, talk of a "resurgence of Ottomanism" is highly exaggerated. However, Turkey's reaction to the Gulf crisis and its declared vision of its future role in the region clearly represent a significant departure from the

past, and enhance the impression of a gradual departure from the Kemalist philosophy of Turkish foreign policy. During a visit to the United States, the Turkish foreign minister said that "Turkey is a Middle Eastern country." No doubt, geographically and culturally Turkey is essentially a Muslim, Middle Eastern country. But during the last 70 years, the whole thrust of Kemalist philosophy has been to deny these geographical and cultural facts and to undertake an unrelenting drive to incorporate Turkey's into Europe. In the U.N. for instance, Turkey is not part of the Afro-Asian group, but rather the European group. Turkey is a member of the OECD. In Western foreign ministries, Turkish affairs are not entrusted to Middle East bureaus.

Furthermore, in recent months, with the intensifying of autonomist trends in the Soviet Union's Asian republics, Turkey has become increasingly active in these areas, especially in the neighbouring republic of Azerbaijan. But here, too, Turkey's recent policies represent a sharp departure from the past practice of avoiding entanglements. Indeed, when the Azerbaijan crisis erupted in January 1990, President Ozal had said in a speech at Washington's International Club that, since the overwhelming

majority of Soviet Azerbaijanis are Shi'ites, that area was of more interest to Iran.

key's image of itself and are posing challenges to traditional views regarding the country's regional and international roles. But because the consequences of systemic changes taking place both at the regional and international levels are not yet clear, and because Turkey is trying to relate to the new forces, its behaviour inevitably acquires a somewhat unfocused character.

Turkey has made great strides in economic and social development and, among Middle Eastern countries, it currently has the most advanced industrial base, including defence. Turkey's skillful diplomacy has also thus far shielded it from the devastation of regional strife. While in the 1970s and early '80s it suffered from internal turmoil, compared to many Middle Eastern countries it has nevertheless enjoyed remarkable political stability, even limited democracy.

At the same time, the Turkish economy is still debt-ridden and dependent on external assistance for continued growth. Inflation is high, and economic disparities, both at personal and regional levels, remain high. Turkey's success in developing a secular, Westernised society has also been limited, and the risk of internal turmoil persists.

Indeed Kemalist policies have failed to turn Turks into secular Europeans. On the contrary, during the last decade there has been a steady rise in the Muslim consciousness of many Turks. Increasing numbers of Turkish intellectuals are questioning the wisdom of ignoring the Islamic dimensions of Turkey's heritage and culture, and they are challenging the notion that economic modernisation requires wholesale emulation of Western values. As an example of this trend, recently 53 Turkish intellectuals formed an Islamic human rights group.

This trend is further strengthened by Europe's rebuff to Turkey, which many Turks believe has happened largely because of its Islamic character. Consequently, some Islamic political groups now argue that Turkey should look more towards cooperating with Muslim countries by leading efforts to form an "Islamic common market."

New horizons, and obstacles

Changes in the Soviet Union are also opening new horizons for the Turks, thus intensifying certain pan-Turkic trends. Here too, however, despair at ever joining Europe has increased the attraction of future possibilities for Turkey in Soviet Asia. Indeed, the Europeans may encourage

such tendencies as partial compensation for their refusal to admit Turkey to the European Community.

Similarly, Turkey's efforts to carve a more important economic and political role for itself in the Middle East directly related to this factor and to the strategic consequences of the end of the Cold War. Indeed, before the Gulf war there was frequent talk of a reduction in Turkey's strategic significance. Thus some in the U.S. were suggesting cuts in its aid to Turkey. In part to demonstrate Turkey's continued usefulness and importance to the West, President Ozal decisively, and despite considerable internal grumbling, sided with the U.S. against Iraq. For the same reason, Turkey may decide to continue being a NATO base for the Middle East, as well as the principal Western conduit to the Soviet Union's Asian Muslims.

But such a role does not appeal to many Turks on cultural, religious or other grounds. The linkage between economic assistance and the West's use of Turkish facilities for military operations in the Middle East is demeaning to many. Most significantly, many Turks are concerned that such a policy of "strategic U.S.-Turkish partnership" could cause severe strains in Turkey's relations with many countries in the Middle East. Indeed, in all likelihood, Turkey would find it difficult to pursue all of these goals without running serious risks in terms of relations with its neighbours and of becoming entangled in Middle East disputes, including the Arab-Israeli conflict. This is already happening, but the full implication for Turkey are not yet clear, in part because of political uncertainties in the Arab World. In addition, policies inspired by pan-Turkic sentiments, if pushed too far, would inevitably bring Turkey into conflict with Iran.

In the Muslim world, as well, Turkey's effort to portray itself as the ideal of Islamic modernism would stimulate rivalry on the part of other contenders for leadership. Moreover, Turkey's close Western and especially U.S. links would make it suspect. Most important, however, foreign policy decisions would have implications for the way Turkey defines itself as a nation. By the same token, its foreign policy would be influenced by the evolution of its collective self-image.

With the end of the Cold War it is certainly true that Turkey will increasingly be drawn into what can best be described as the vortex of Islamic policies. It is also clear that President Ozal's vision of Turkey as the only Muslim member of a united Europe, the leader of all Turkic peoples, a principal political force in the Middle East, a leader of the Muslim world and the mediator between Islam and the West cannot be achieved easily, if at all. On the contrary, during the next decade Turkey will face difficult choices in terms of its national and international orientation.

Shireen J. Hunter is deputy director of the Middle East Programme at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies in Washington DC. The article is reprinted from the London-based Middle East International.

LETTERS

The tip of an iceberg

To the Editor:

UNFORTUNATELY it was only today that I was able to read R. Khouri's article of May 14 [Thank heaven for little girls' shorts]. Excellent. He executed a fine analysis of this "topic." However, I believe Mr. Khouri, at least partly because of his overexcitement about democracy at large and in Jordan in particular, has failed to clearly articulate his conclusion. I help: The "shorts of little girls" is only the tip of a huge, rapidly drifting iceberg. Education is only one facet of what is intended. Obviously under fire are our humane prerequisites and freedoms: hotels, banks, tourism, sports, cinema, theatre, social club, graduation ceremonies, etc.... At stake are pluralism, tolerance, arts, literature, basic values and freedoms and even sciences. I talk about undermining of the Jordanian society's will to join a train of civilisation and prosperity. May I remind everybody that according to the very valuable conceptions of top leaders of our country Singapore was seriously brought into discussion as a model for Jordan's future. I believed that all Jordanians with a sense of duty and responsibility are supposed to feel the uneasiness of evidence that certain groups are not hesitating to draw Jordan (and certainly other societies) back into "dark ages."

Dr. S. Sak...

Disappointing attitudes

To the Editor:

I AM both amazed and dismayed by the attitudes of Muslim Brotherhood ministers towards women.

I also think that their perception of male members of our society as a threat to women is very disappointing.

If men are such threatening creatures to women, should they be locked up so that women can lead a normal life, free from "persecution and oppression." After all, should we not look at the beast rather than victimise the victim?

Is segregation the answer to all the ills in our society? Could covering up of women, thus isolating them from society, be diminishing their productivity, be for the good of Jordan?

We, women should demand more of our society and we should work at improving our lives including granting women their rights. These are difficult times where the majority of men cannot cope on their own with the financial pressures of the day and are wives who can share the burden of bread-winning thus providing their children with security and a higher standard of living.

Arwa Mustaf...

A setback for peace

The following letter was sent to U.S. President George Bush May 31 by Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee President Albert Mukhiber.

Dear President Bush:

I HAVE recently written you on two occasions encouraged various statements of Secretary of State James Baker and yours concerning the peace process in the Middle East and your accurate assessment that Israeli settlements are currently the main obstacle to achieving peace.

However, the announcement today by Secretary of Defense Cheney that the U.S. is stockpiling arms in Israel is mortifying and in direct contradiction to the notion of peace making arms control, which the administration has recently advocated.

This news marks a major setback for those of us who were beginning to believe that the U.S. was finally recognising the horrific danger posed by the arms race in the region and the urgent need for peace. Rather than compelling Israel to comply with international law by ending its illegal occupation and settlements programme, as seemed to be suggested by Secretary Baker and yourself, Secretary Cheney has instead rewarded them.

Further, any impression that the U.S. was becoming more evenhanded vis-a-vis Israel will be seriously doubted, if not dashed altogether.

As such, you are respectfully called upon to reverse this stockpiling decision and instead revert back to the more sensible policy of working for peace, which requires impartiality and trust.

Your reply to this crucial request is greatly appreciated.

Albert Mukhiber

President

AD

Look again!

To the Editor:

CONCERNING "Glance in the Mirror," by George Halfield (Letters to the Editor, Jordan Times, May 29, 1991), I enjoyed and wholeheartedly agree with the sentiments expressed by Mr. Halfield and was delighted to read a letter printed with a touch of humour and controversy.

I too am an avid reader if not admirer of Rami Khouri's articles, but one can only absorb so much continual negativity criticism especially from such a well respected and influential writer. I cannot help but feel he could contribute so much more a positive way.

It is all too easy to blame others for our misfortunes as in the particular case the West apparently has to shoulder the blame for all the misfortunes that the Arab World has encountered. I would not think for a moment that the Arab World would be naive enough to go along with this conclusion. So why does Mr. Khouri continually promote and perpetuate this belief?

Is Jordan progressing towards democracy? I wonder! Let progress not regress and hopefully we will all have the courage to face all the facts and not just the ones that are most convenient to the ones that can be used as an "scapegoat."

If I may suggest to Mr. Khouri that he stop erring on the safe side and adopt a more controversial and objective approach which would be more worthy of his talents and in turn provide interesting and stimulating reading.

Jean Fakhour (Mr.)
P.O. Box 16
Amman

هكذا من الأصل

Features

JORDAN TIMES, TUESDAY, JUNE 4, 1991

King: Taboos and cliches should disappear

(Continued from page 1)

there are some realities that I hope will sink into the minds of all concerned. The problem is really such that it is not a localised, limited problem. It is the problem that requires very massive effort: People of goodwill who are interested and anxious to see progress should be engaged. We need for example in my view an educational process to really be extensively carried out. So if you take the Israeli dimension they have lived within a fortress, and they've lived within a fortress for a long time and with a fortress mentality; but I believe that many don't know what peace offers.

Q: Doesn't Your Majesty fear that the Americans might adopt the Israeli option for a settlement?

A: What we are seeking is a solution that will last, a solution of this problem that future generations can live with and can protect. So I have very serious doubts that despite the fact that maybe the military option, which may have been on the minds of some, is totally irrelevant now and has been removed from the scene for a long time to come. There is the other side of it and that is the danger that unless there is progress in a balanced way, I believe that the area could suffer great turbulence and extremism which could jeopardise not only all within this region, but the world as a whole. So, I haven't had the impression that the Americans are necessarily taking the Israeli option or supporting it.

Q: But doesn't Your Majesty fear that Jordan will be sacrificed for a Palestinian State?

A: Let's look at it realistically. Even that theory or approach... Why do I say the problem is a problem of much greater magnitude? Even assuming that this is the approach of some, (and) if we look at the map and you look at Jordan and Palestine including Israel and you look at the possibility that maybe in the minds of some that the problem could be resolved within these confines. I cannot honestly see how this land mass can absorb all the Jews of the world, those in Israel and those coming to Israel, all the Palestinians and all the Jordanians. This is physically impossible. Therefore, this is not an option — the option is really peace that opens so many doors for stability within the region, for people interacting and for progress to be achieved. And on the other hand from my perspective there is another dimension that has to be addressed; it has been brought to the forefront in terms of what has happened recently when Iraq invaded Kuwait and occupied it. We here in Jordan had to suddenly face the fact of over two hundred thousand who have lived all this life in Kuwait, coming back. Many of them didn't leave from here. Many of them have been in Kuwait for three generations, built Kuwait. So, what happens to these people in the future? Not the ones that we have here, but in a new context, a real general attempt to change the shape for things in the area where hopefully democracy, power-sharing is recognised to be an essential part of the life of any country. These people have to have their rights as well. Other-

wise, you have a problem where Israel, if it chooses, expels people. But the same thing is happening regardless of the circumstances even within our own area and our own region. And I believe that Palestinians must feel that they are not a non-people. They are a people, they have their rights, human rights; they are respected everywhere and hopefully in the future they will be an element of stability in the region. Jordan is the only country throughout the many years... that has chosen a path for which it was criticised at times. But Jordan is the only country that has given Palestinians its nationality, not jeopardising the final outcome. In other words, they could have conceived in the future if we moved towards a solution, a dual nationality and the same should be applied elsewhere in the region. There are things that are not possible, nor do they make any sense in terms of trying to limit the problem and go step by step in the old way. The approach of the United States and others for example with regard to Egypt and Israel. We really need to look at all the aspects, all the elements and we are ready to do whatever we can; but we have to be open-minded; we have to be constructive; we have to have vision; and we have to secure rights for people so that we have real peace and a lasting peace in this region.

Q: Your Majesty mentioned the possibility of a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation. How do you see its perspective at present within a possible solution?

A: First of all, this is contingent or our receiving a very clear request from the Palestinians themselves, and we had been working with the PLO and we had reached an agreement and the PLO, as far as we are concerned, are the address of the Palestinian people, regardless of all the attempts to portray the picture otherwise, whether it is a delegation of Palestinians from the occupied territories, combined with others. Obviously we hope to achieve that. It is too early now to say but we will not impose ourselves; we will not be in a position to move beyond saying at this stage that we will be ready to look at a Palestinian request for us to form a joint delegation in which cases it will be a Palestinian and a Jordanian delegation. The Palestinian one will handle the Palestinian dimension of the problem with our support. But we will provide the umbrella if the Palestinians are persuaded that this is the only way out; we will look at it. We had such an agreement in 85. We can revive it and look at it and also regarding our future relations once peace is established.

Q: Many Palestinians in Jordan believe that the best thing for the future is a confederation between Jordan and an independent Palestinian state. What is your view?

A: This is the way that we had looked at in the past and if you go back to the very early 70's we had offered three options that if the territories were recovered either some form of a federation or in terms of facts... that would mean two local governments and a central parliament, and a central government that would look after this new creation at that time we

visualized that it would have amongst its responsibilities defence and foreign policy. The other option was an independent Palestinian state. The third option was the return to the union which I don't believe was feasible either then or now despite the fact that we are extremely close together. I believe people are attached to their identity and to their nationality, so to speak, even within the context of the family that we form here. So, that wasn't looked at very seriously at the time and in fact it caused us to suffer a lot but they were the three options then. And I believe in 85 that evolved to the idea of a confederation. But essentially it should be what I described at some point. I believe that somehow self-determination has to be brought into the equation, and whatever happens it has to be the result of the desire and will and conviction of Palestinians and Jordanians that this is the way to go. But there are these visions of the future and I think they are real and they could work.

Q: Under which conditions is Your Majesty ready to meet the talk with Israeli leaders?

A: I firmly believe that a taboos and cliches have to be put aside. If we are convinced of where we are, (and) we know what our case is, and we have self-confidence and we have a sense of responsibility, then probably we should not be concerned or worried to talk to anybody at anytime. Anyway, it is early to speak of this. I believe it will have to come soon.

Q: But at this point in time is it useful to talk to Israeli leaders?

A: I believe regardless of whether it will happen or not, we are talking about a process now and we don't know exactly how it is going to develop or work out, or what the rules will be. But barriers sooner or later will have to disappear. I believe maybe in the future face-to-face contacts will dispel many of the fears both sides have of each other at an appropriate time.

Q: Does Your Majesty believe the new relationship between the U.S. and the Soviet Union will help to find a solution or on the contrary there will be a tacit agreement between both on the status quo.

A: I have had a chance to talk with the Americans and with the Soviets recently, and I believe that essentially this development is a very interesting one. Hopefully it will be a constructive one. And both have their views. They may be close in some ways and this maybe promising.

Q: How does Your Majesty describe present relations with the United States and is it that you will visit Washington very soon?

A: I honestly don't have anything at this moment to say that I will do so. I believe that a dialogue has begun with the United States again and a constructive one but it really depends on the way things go and I believe it is important and vital that at the very highest levels there is contact and a rejuvenation of the friendship and understanding that used to exist between us many years ago, and which deteriorated over a number of years reaching its lowest ebb during this recent crisis. But as to when and how meetings at the highest levels which will probably improve the

atmosphere immensely and bring about understanding that is not something that we will look at, any I am sure we will have a clear picture of when and how in the immediate coming period. A dialogue has started in earnest and I think it looks promising, and the recognition that Jordan is a very, very important element of any process in this area not only on the Israeli dimension but within the region. As for the recent past, I believe that it is becoming clearer to people that we stood on principle: that we were against war, and before that we were against the occupation of Kuwait, we wanted to resolve the process peacefully and we were against all the consequences that have occurred in this region in terms of death and destruction, be it Iraq or in Kuwait. We were ever concerned with environmental problem that this globe has faced. So, we were never for the acquisition of territory by war, and this has been our stand regarding the Palestinian problem, throughout the years that have passed.

Q: The war is over. How does Your Majesty see the future of Saddam Hussein and the internal situation in Iraq?

A: That is purely an Iraqi dimension and I would not be able to comment on. But I certainly hope that it is clear that I am concerned for the Iraqi people to remain as one country, for the integrity of Iraq, and hopefully all the lessons of the past will result in a better future with regard to Iraq and a change of approach regarding many in the region in their own time.

But I really hope and pray for a determination to bring in more power sharing into every part of the Arab world, to bring in more democracy, more respect for human rights, more participation in government which are guarantees, in themselves, of mistakes not occurring again regardless of their nature, and at the same time if you look at the entire Arab world I believe very firmly that the future must be along the lines of the European experience and I hope we can put it together.

Q: A common market of the Middle East in 10 years from now?

A: Something like that I hope it can happen.

Q: The fundamentalists are becoming stronger and stronger in Jordan. Doesn't this threaten the course of democracy?

A: I am very concerned for democracy in this country, and I am very determined to do everything I can do to avoid... any threats to it because democracy has caused it to be able to stand together during the most difficult crisis we ever faced as we have recently, certainly full of promise. But at the same time it is important that this succeeds here because its success will be a positive element in terms of the region as a whole and an example of something that can work. With the recent elections that brought the facts in which we live right now to being. We concentrated on the National Charter and we established a dialogue between all the different political schools of thoughts, and really in itself, it was a process of reconciliation, and the Charter is almost ready and I hope to see it become a reality very, very soon. But on

the other hand, I believe that a great number of us here in Jordan are becoming more and more aware of the threat to a democracy if its real meaning is now known. I have always advocated the approach of retaining from our past the best characteristics of our nation and that identify as such but also opening up to the rest of the world. I believe there is no contradiction with religion in that regard. There may be a danger wherever religion is politicized and I hope this will not be the case here because if it is then this is not faith and religion, and wherever it is politicized I believe people usually try to destroy religion and faith in the name of religion and faith and I don't think we will permit that to happen.

This parliament in Jordan has been chosen by the people of Jordan at a certain point in time. And I believe it has contributed positively in many respects, and in many areas. But if we are talking about a charter that has been talked out by people representing all schools of thought in this country including many who represent the extreme right to the extreme left, then obviously, when the Charter is a fact, and the freedoms are there, Jordanians will have the chance to take another look, and after all Parliament is a reflection of the people and their mood at a certain point in time. But in the future when new realities come into being, when the Charter permits the freedoms for all, I believe the situation will develop and evolve. In any event, I believe the experience of sharing power will also moderate the attitudes. It is one thing to be on the outside talking about hypothetical solutions that might be extreme or otherwise, and another thing to be within the picture and aware of what is happening.

Bush urges Israel

(Continued from page 1)

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister David Levy flew to Paris on Monday for talks about a possible European Community role in Middle East peace efforts.

"He will be discussing the role the EC may have in the peace process and the question of Israeli relations with the EC," a spokesman said.

Israeli newspapers quoted unnamed officials in Jerusalem as saying Shamir was willing to let the EC be more than an observer but less than a sponsor of the conference.

Syrians pull out of Gulf

(Continued from page 1)

future war in the region, diplomats and defence analysts in Cairo said.

The mainly-Arab analysts, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said depots were being established in the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

Starving a nation: The myth and reality of sanctions

By Anne Grace

SANCTIONS against Iraq, authorised by the United Nations under Security Council Resolution 661, were a widely accepted non-violent attempt to restore Kuwaiti sovereignty and avoid a war. The war was fought anyway and victory declared. But Iraqis know that the war continues after the bombs in a much less messy and much less visible way: the continuation of sanctions after their accepted original objective of forcing Iraq out of Kuwait has been achieved.

The allies claimed the war was not against the Iraqi people. Yet they chose to prosecute the war in such a manner that destroyed the life support systems of an urbanised and technically-advanced society of 18 million people. The bombing of the "command and control" centres destroyed electricity, communications, and transportation, and in the process has severely crippled the water, food and health systems of the entire country. The result is disastrous. There is hardly an aspect of life untouched. Sanctions and concomitant frozen assets are directly responsible for needless deaths.

The myth that humanitarian sanctions have been lifted, as prescribed under U.S. Security Council Resolution 661 and clarified under resolutions 666 and 687 is belied by the Sanctions Committee's refusal to approve the Iraqi request to export \$1 billion-worth of oil in order to import food, medicine and necessary equipment for reconstruction. It is belied when frozen assets are not released to cover letters of credit for the purchases of Australian wheat. It is belied when Iraqi purchases, made prior to the war, of powdered milk cannot be released from allied ports for lack of foreign exchange to cover storage charges.

Baghdad itself is terribly deceptive to western eyes. The shops are full of consumer goods. Most of the capital has electricity for some hours of the day. On the streets, there is some traffic, at least at some hours of the day. The garbage is collected, at least in the better parts of the city. The children are back in schools. But scratch the surface, the reality totally belies the deception. The shops, full of non-essential consumer goods, do not have electricity. So why are they open? The proprietors have little else to do. They say, "even at a loss or selling below cost, there were only few customers from August to January, and after the ground war no one buys anything." Inflation is now estimated at 1,300 to 1,400 per cent.

There is electricity, but it is rationed with priority given to the hospitals and critical emergency services. Government offices, hotels and private homes may receive power only an allotted number of hours in a given day. But there is none for sanitation. The treatment of sewage requires electricity. Before the war, Iraq prided itself that the Tigris and Euphrates were amongst the cleanest rivers in the world. Without power, from the source to the

mouth of the rivers, sewage is to a large degree dumped into the rivers untreated. The Tigris and Euphrates are now badly contaminated.

Even children back in school is deceptive. Over one million students do not have desks and must bring cans from home to sit on. They have exams for which they cannot prepare as there is no electricity at home at night.

Thus much economic activity cannot be restored. Over 90 per cent of the factories are closed. Even agriculture at harvest time is crippled. Power and spare parts are not available. Iraq is a nation of people on "forced leave without pay." Of those lucky enough to retain employment in services, industry, agriculture or in government, the purchasing power of their income has been eroded to subsistence.

Before Aug. 2, Iraq imported 70 per cent of its food. Now stocks of essential staples are either depleted or at critically low levels. Livestock, before the war, was a thriving industry. Iraq produced and consumed a lot of meat. Livestock herds were highly dependent upon imported feeds and locally produced vaccines. But warehouses were destroyed in the bombing and now feed cannot be imported. The only factory producing animal vaccines is destroyed. And herds have been slaughtered. Poultry production, again dependent on imported feed and electric power, has been decimated. And fruit trees, a major investment, are withering because of the lack of power-generated irrigation facilities. What does exist now in the markets is priced far beyond the reach of most Iraqis. Eggs are now imported from Jordan and at the local currency exchange rate cost a little over 50 cents per egg.

For the six months following the imposition of sanctions in August, no food imports at all were allowed into Iraq at all. Since that time until last week, the equivalent of one day food requirement or 10,000 metric tonnes for the entire population had been imported. The U.N. World Food Programme last week allocated two shipments of food staples, one just under \$20 million and one for \$24 million. To Canada and Australia's credit both signed commercial contracts (\$50,000 and one million tonnes respectively) for the exportation of wheat to Iraq. But the Australian shipment was halted because a third government refused to release frozen bank assets which Iraq would use to pay for the food. The sanctions are rapidly leading to starvation.

With medicine, the situation is

no better. Health conditions throughout Iraq are precarious. Medicine and medical equipment are dependent upon the importation to the tone of one-half and three-quarters of a billion dollars per year. The government, for lack of vaccines, was forced to halt its child immunisation programme one month after the imposition of sanctions. Many purchases made by Iraq prior to August still remain in foreign ports. Antibiotics, anaesthetics, insulin, anti-dehydration tablets remain in critical shortages.

The ministry of health now estimates that at least 150,000 children will die from war related diseases. The water and sanitation conditions will be exacerbated by the long, hot summer which in turn will make imminent communicable, particularly water-borne diseases. Major epidemics of cholera, typhoid and malaria are likely to become the worst after effect of the war.

The lifting of humanitarian sanctions, which presumably most believe has already occurred, is necessary but insufficient. The little that does work in Iraq today works only because, out of necessity, "Peter is being robbed to pay Paul." The cannibalisation of industrial and agricultural assets, while necessary under the current crisis conditions, will ultimately result in much greater suffering. A food system, a health care system, not to mention employment-generating productive capacity require supporting materials, inputs, spare parts, a transport system.

To avoid a worsening disaster, therefore, all non-military sanctions must be lifted and financial assets unfrozen. Iraq has the capability to finance much of its own relief and reconstruction needs — if they are only allowed to import and export. If all non-military sanctions are lifted, certainly the United Nations and the international community have the capacity to monitor the use of critical imports. Iraq has welcomed this supervision.

If sanctions are not lifted, the survival of the majority of the Iraqi population will be at risk. Over 50 per cent of the population is under 16, and additional 10 per cent are elderly — nearly 11 million people. In addition, there are about three million pregnant or lactating women. Even if the sanctions were lifted tomorrow, it is highly unlikely that major epidemics can be avoided this summer and will take its toll among these vulnerable groups.

The writer is Quaker Middle East representative. She contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

2 women murdered

(Continued from page 1)

until she died, with her teachers watching.

Jaradat said that the accused was immediately arrested and investigations were underway. According to the PSD, the second murder involved a 46-year-old man, identified also by his initials, killed his own sister, aged 32, by opening fire on her with an automatic rifle.

The PSD said that the murder took place in the street in open daylight as the woman was walking towards her home in Jabal Al Abiad district. The accused, who immediately surrendered to the police, admitted that the motive behind the killing was his belief that the victim was responsible for the death of his own brother.

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Financial Markets

Jordan Times
in co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	Rate Close June 3, 1991	Rate Close June 3, 1991
Sterling Pound	1.6975	1.6970
Deutsche Mark	1.7425	1.7415
Swiss Franc	1.4555	1.4545
French Franc	5.9075	5.9100
Japanese Yen	138.35	138.37
European Currency Unit	1.1805	1.1801

USD Per STG
European Opening at 8:00 a.m. GMT

Barocurrency Interest Rates

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.67	5.93	6.12	6.56
Sterling Pound	11.31	11.18	10.87	10.51
Deutsche Mark	8.75	8.93	9.00	9.06
Swiss Franc	7.81	7.87	7.81	7.68
French Franc	9.25	9.25	9.25	9.18
Japanese Yen	7.84	7.62	7.56	7.31
European Currency Unit	9.93	9.81	9.75	9.62

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding L.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	360.50	6.70	Silver	4.11	.098

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin
Date: 3/6/1991

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.6820	.6840
Sterling Pound	1.1572	1.1630
Deutsche Mark	.3917	.3937
Swiss Franc	.4596	.4619
French Franc	.1156	.1162
Japanese Yen	.4924	.4949
Dutch Guilder	.3478	.3495
Swedish Krona	.1094	.1099
Italian Lira	.0529	.0532
Belgian Franc	.0911	.0921

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7800	1.8050
Lebanese Lira	.074	.076
Saudi Riyal	.1815	.1821
Kuwaiti Dinar	-	-
Qatari Riyal	.1844	.1860
Egyptian Pound	.1900	.2050
Omani Riyal	1.7400	1.7600
UAE Dirham	.1844	.1860
Greek Drachma	.3550	.3650
Cypriot Pound	1.4100	1.4300

CAS Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	1/6/1991	Close	2/6/1991	Close
All-Share	112.92		112.89	
Banking Sector	110.25		110.45	
Insurance Sector	112.48		112.56	
Industry Sector	115.19		114.89	
Services Sector	127.13		126.46	

December 31, 1990 = 100

Iran signs big oil deal with Total

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iran has signed a major deal with a French oil company to develop its offshore oilfields, the Middle East Economic Survey MEES reported Monday.

The report marked yet another indication of Iran's willingness to open its oil industry to Western expertise, breaking the isolationist mold of the 1979 Islamic revolution.

The weekly newsletter, published in Cyprus, said a letter of intent was signed in Isfahan last week by the French company Total and the state-run National Iranian Oil Co. during an international oil conference.

The newsletter quoted the Total announcement of the deal as saying Total would help develop offshore oilfields that were selected by joint agreement between the parties.

The fields were not identified by Total, but the newsletter said it understands the project involves the development of two new fields in the Sirri area near the strategic Strait of Hormuz.

The existing Sirri Fields are currently producing some 30,000 barrels a day but this could be boosted to around 80,000 barrels with output from the new fields, the newsletter said.

The economic survey said the deal also includes a contract for purchase of a substantial quantity of Iranian crude oil by Total that could average around 100,000 barrels a day.

No dollar total has been announced for the deal.

The Total deal report follows the disclosure that the American oil company Chevron Corp. is holding talks with Iran on an agreement to help develop offshore oilfields in the Gulf.

The disclosure came at the three-day oil conference in Isfahan, the first such parity held in Iran since the 1979 revolution.

Oil sources said that in addition to Total and Chevron, Italy's AGIP SPA, the Japan National Oil Co. and the British Petroleum Co. were among companies that expressed interest in projects in Iran.

Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aghazadeh reiterated that Iran plans to boost its oil output capacity to five million barrels a day by 1993 from 3.5 million currently.

Iran hopes to use Western help to rebuild its rundown oil industry and bankroll and economic revival on which President Hashemi Rafsanjani's political survival hinges.

Islamabad wants to create swift model for privatisation

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan's state-owned industrial sector is up for sale and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's government hopes to raise billions of dollars for much-needed development.

As many as 115 of the 150 state-run industrial units have been selected for auction since Mr. Sharif took office in November and made privatisation the main plank of his economic programme to revive a stagnant economy.

"Eventually everything will go," Mr. Saeed Qadir, head of the government's privatisation commission, told Reuters in an interview.

"It is to be done in the shortest possible time. And we think in the next three to four months, all the industries will be unloaded," he said.

Many of the state-owned enterprises are bloated and losing money, and the government wants to get rid of them to reduce pressure on the state budget.

One of the six state-owned banks was sold in January and at least three others are expected to follow suit.

The funds generated by the sales will be kept in a special account with the state (central) bank to "... be used for development purposes under the instructions of the prime minister," he said.

The nation's telecommunications corporation, put on sale last month, is alone valued officially at between \$3 and \$5 billion.

Government experts are studying private foreign participation in a Soviet-built steel mill, the country's largest industrial unit, and oil refineries, government officials said.

"We are creating a model of our own. In fact, I expect that other countries will be following this after our success," Mr. Qadir said.

He said the government decided against the common privatisation methods of unloading stock, management buy-outs, employees buying shares and taking control, and sale through private negotiations with existing larger groups.

"The method which we have adopted is that you offer to everybody, whoever wishes to buy... percentage of control through shares that is 51 per cent plus management," he explained.

The speed of the process has triggered an outcry from opposition politicians and other critics who accuse the government of favouritism and endangering jobs.

"It is a government of the industrialists, by the industrialists for the industrialists," said opposition leader Benazir Bhutto. Mr. Sharif himself is an industrialist.

Mr. Zahid Sarfraz, a former commerce minister and a dissident parliamentarian from the ruling Islamic Democratic Alliance, called the privatisation scheme a "clearance sale" to benefit favourites.

"This is a loot sale," said Mrs. Bhutto aide and former interior minister Aitzaz Ahsan.

Mr. Qadir said that the system of open auction adopted by the government should disprove any charge of favouritism.

But he said he feared that foreign buyers could be discouraged by the swiftness of the process, adding that many Pakistanis living abroad would be forthcoming.

"We get queries from abroad and they all want more time," he said about prospective foreign buyers. "We have told them we cannot extend our time."

Mr. Sharif's government has also opened other sectors such as shipping, aviation and power generation to the private sector.

MANILA (R) — President Corason Aquino has said that a proposed ceiling on Philippine debt repayments would harm the country's credit standing and warned congress she might veto any attempt to impose a debt cap.

Mrs. Aquino said a debt repayments ceiling would adversely affect government efforts to obtain foreign loans needed to finance urgent development projects.

A 286 billion peso (\$10.2 billion) budget for 1991 approved by the senate last week includes a provision limiting payments on the Philippines' \$29 billion external debt to 20 per cent of 1990 export earnings.

The house of representatives proposed a lower debt ceiling of 10 per cent of export income.

"I have told them (the legislators) that it will really be difficult for us if we will have a debt cap because all the things we are doing now and all the loans and assistance that we are getting from different countries will be affected," Mrs. Aquino said.

"I just hope that they will be able to work out a way so that I will not have to veto this thing," she added.

A bicameral committee will meet this week to reconcile the two versions and present the final budget to Mrs. Aquino for signing.

Economic officials had said imposing a legal restriction on debt repayments would send the wrong signals to the country's creditors and jeopardise Manila's ability to borrow more from commercial and official sources.

Mrs. Aquino said Finance Secretary Jesus Estanislao had told her it might be possible to reduce a controversial nine per cent import tax by two per cent in July.

"The entire nine per cent cannot be removed at once until we are able to get other sources of revenue," Mrs. Aquino said.

She added: "Secretary Estanislao was telling me perhaps July could be thought as the time a two per cent cut could be made."

Mrs. Aquino said the import levy was a temporary measure and would be removed as soon as congress has passed alternative tax measures to help boost government revenues.

Senator Neptali Gonzales, chairman of the senate finance committee, said Friday senators were aware Mrs. Aquino would veto the debt ceiling provision and hinted they might try to override her veto.

MANAMA, Bahrain (R) — The Saudi Land Transport Company (Mubarrad) said it will make a public share issue worth 180 million riyals later this month.

The Riyadh-based firm said its shareholders had approved the issue of 1.8 million new shares to raise its capital to 300 million riyals (\$80 million) from 120 million (\$32 million) now.

Deputy director and general manager, Abdul Malik Ahmad Al Shaikh told Reuters the move followed a decision last month by Commerce Minister Suleiman Abdul Aziz Al Salim to change the firm's status from a limited liability company to a joint stock company.

The new shares will be offered to the Saudi public on June 29 through domestic banks at 100 offer shares to the public.

It was the second Saudi firm to offer shares to the public.

Sheikh said ownership of the original 120 million riyals worth of shares would be limited to founder shareholders of the company, formerly known as the Saudi Refrigerated Transport Company.

The firm's activities include transporting vegetables to and from Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states.

It also transports the meat from lambs sacrificed by pilgrims to Mecca during the Haj season within the kingdom and in Syria, Jordan and Lebanon.

Sheikh said the company posted a 22 million riyal (\$5.9 million) accumulated net profit in 1990 and the first quarter of 1991.

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The firm's activities include transporting vegetables to and from Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states.

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South Korean prime minister assaulted by student protesters

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Prime Minister Chung Won-Shik was kicked and roughly up by militant students Monday when he visited a university to give a lecture, police and witnesses said.

Police said the prime minister escaped unhurt from the dozens of militant students, who hurled eggs and wheat flour at him at Seoul's Hankook University of foreign studies.

The incident came hours after President Roh Tae-Woo ordered tougher crackdowns on violent protests after 1,500 riot police using tear gas and water cannons battled students in a hospital compound where the body of a dead protester has been kept.

Chung, appointed prime minister in a partial cabinet reshuffle on May 24, was giving a lecture to graduate students of the university when the disturbance began, police said.

Chung, 62, a former college professor on education, served as education minister from 1988-90. He had been a lecturer at the school for the spring semester, and aides said Monday was his final day there.

Witnesses said 30 minutes after he began the lecture, about 200 students began a sit-down protest outside his classroom. Students hurled eggs as he interrupted his class and came out of the classroom, they said.

The prime minister locked himself in another room but was forced out by students who broke open the doors, witnesses said. He then was taken out to the school's playground, flanked by students, they said.

Students kicked and doused the prime minister with wheat flour as he led toward the school's main gate, witnesses said. Aides rescued the prime minister and he left the school by taxi in 45 minutes, they said.

Roh told a meeting of government prosecutors earlier Monday, "peaceful assemblies and demonstrations would be guaranteed but violent protests by illegal terrorist groups must be dealt with harshly."

The justice minister and the national police chief, echoing Roh's tough stand, issued separate statements warning that the government would not tolerate

lawlessness any longer.

The government warning came shortly after riot police attacked 500 students guarding the Paik Hospital in central Seoul. Witnesses said police tore down the wood and trash barricades and moved to within 15 metres of the hospital morgue but were unable to retrieve the protester's body.

Students erected barricades again at both ends of a street in front of the hospital after police withdrew in one hour.

About 30 students and 10 riot police were injured in the attack, witnesses said. No arrests were reported.

It was the second police attack on the hospital in less than a week to retrieve the body for an autopsy. Militant students have blocked repeated attempts by prosecutors to conduct an autopsy.

Militant student and dissident leaders demanding that prosecutors investigate alleged police brutality before conducting an autopsy on the dead student's body.

Government officials and dissident leaders dispute the cause of the student's death on May 25.

Officials claim that she was trampled while fleeing from riot police. Dissidents argue that she died of suffocation by excessive use of tear gas.

The standoff threatened to further intensify Roh's most serious political crisis only three weeks before nationwide elections on local self-rule.

Four hours after the attack was launched, tear gas remained heavy in the air around the hospital. One nurse said several newborn babies had been placed in incubators to avoid breathing problems.

Demonstrations triggered by the fatal beating of a student by police on April 26 have created the worst political crisis for Roh since he took office in early 1988.

Roh has changed his prime minister and five cabinet members in a bid to halt unrest, but dissidents have demanded his resignation and a new democratic government.

So far, the steady anti-government offensive has failed to attract middle-class sympathisers, and Roh has hardened his position against violent protests.

Troops kill 3 IRA members in N. Ireland

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP) — Special Air Service soldiers shot dead three members of the IRA during an undercover operation Monday, British news reports said.

Police would say only that three men, believed to be connected with the Irish Republican Army, were found dead in a burned out car after an encounter with an army patrol in the village of Coagh, 45 kilometres west of Belfast.

Sinn Fein, the IRA's legal political wing, identified the dead men as Peter Ryan, Tony Dorris and Lawrence McNally.

Police said they were not involved in the operation but said uniformed soldiers fired the shots. Security sources said an SAS unit had staked out the ambush spot, Press Association, the British domestic news agency, reported.

The SAS, created during the World War II, is made up of highly trained troops.

British news reports said the three men were on their way to mount an attack on Protestant workmen in the village when they were intercepted by the SAS troops. Two rifles were found beside the charred remains of the stolen car, Press Association reported.

The car caught fire when one of the bullets hit the gas tank, news reports said.

A woman who lives nearby said she heard the shooting. "It seemed to go on and on. It was terrible and when I went outside I could see the smoke coming from the car," she said.

In other violence Monday, a spokesman for the British army said there was a large explosion at the Bally Cassidy Sawmill next to the army base at St. Angelo Airfield, 110 kilometres west of Belfast.

There were no reports of any injuries at the base, used for helicopter patrols, the army spokesman said. But the blast was heard over a wide area and shattered windows in homes several hundred yards from the base.

Press Association reported that terrorists drove a truck into the Sawmill, but it was not known if mortars were fired from the truck or if explosives were concealed inside it.

The news agency said the driver of the truck escaped in an accompanying car.

Police said a family living near the base was held captive during the night by the armed men. The armed men left early Monday in the family's car, which was later found burned out a few miles from the Sawmill, police said.

The alleged shootings came less than 24 hours after a Northern Ireland civil servant was seriously injured by a bomb placed underneath her car. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the bombing but a police spokesman said the Irish Republican Army (IRA) was a prime suspect.

On Saturday, the IRA claimed responsibility for a truck bombing that killed three soldiers, injured 11 others and demolished an Ulster Defence Regiment base. It is a locally recruited regiment of 6,000 soldiers.

Hawke defeats Keating in leadership fight

CANBERRA (R) — Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke Monday beat off a challenge for power by his treasurer Paul Keating and will stay at the helm of a government he has led for more than eight years.

Keating promptly quit his post after Labour parliamentarians voted by 66 votes to 44 to stay with Hawke who has taken Labour to a record four successive election victories.

In a day of high drama, Hawke told a news conference after the decisive secret ballot that Keating's departure ended "one of the outstanding combinations in post-war politics."

Keating, who became treasurer and right-hand man to Hawke when Labour won power in 1983, stood down gracefully and said he would not challenge for the leadership again.

"The fact is I had only one shot in the locker and I fired it," he said. Interest now centres on who will replace Keating.

Primary Industries Minister John Kerin and Finance Minister Ralph Willis are considered front-runners.

Keating, the architect of the unshackling of the Australian economy, said he would stay on Labour's backbenches until the next poll in 1993 but ruled out any future ministerial role.

Keating's treasury post was left open. A successor is expected to be named Tuesday but his deputy prime minister's portfolio was filled by Welfare Services Minister Brian Howe, a left-winger known for his reformist views.

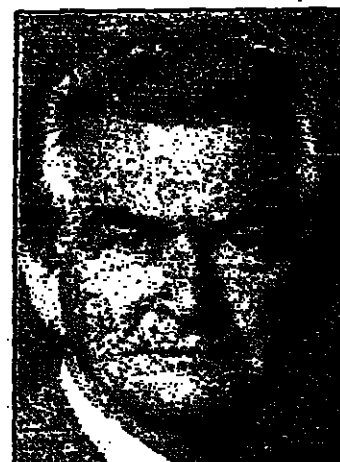
Hawke supporters said after the ballot that the 22-vote margin was emphatic enough to cement his position as leader and prevent any future challenge before an election which must be held by March 1993.

But former minister Peter Duncan, a Keating backer, told reporters Hawke could not claim an overwhelming vote of confidence.

"We now have an interregnum, the prime minister will be under the microscope," he said.

Hawke, a populist leader whose approval ratings have recently slipped behind the Conservative opposition, conceded the party had been hurt by his public squabbling.

The government "must now set



Bob Hawke

Will Rogers Folies beats Miss Saigon for best musical

NEW YORK (R) — The all-American Will Rogers Folies won the Tony Award for Best Musical on Broadway, beating Miss Saigon, a British import set in the closing days of the Vietnam War.

Director Tommy Tune's evening at the Ziegfeld Folies, hosted by Rogers, played by Keith Carradine, won the coveted prize after a fierce battle with Cameron MacKintosh's Miss Saigon, an update of Madame Butterfly set in the days at the end of the Vietnam War.

Actress Shirley MacLaine presented the award at a gala ceremony at the Minskoff Theatre in New York's Times Square. Stars who presented awards at the glamorous evening also included Whoopi Goldberg, Anthony Quinn, Audrey Hepburn, Denzel Washington and Carole Channing.

The show was hosted by British actor Jeremy Irons and actress Julie Andrews. Both shows received 11 nominations, but momentum had been building for Folies, which recreates the late will Rogers, America's revered cowboy humorist-philosopher. The show had won both the Drama Desk and Drama Critics Circle Awards. But Saigon stars Jonathan Pryce and Lea Salonga won the Tonys for Best Leading Actor and Best Leading Actress in a musical.

Singapore bans imports of fighting dogs

SINGAPORE (R) — Singapore had banned imports of fighting dogs, including American Pit Bull Terriers and Japanese Tosas and Akitas, the government said. The ban, which takes effect immediately, follows reports from other countries on the risk to life and limb posed by dangerous breeds, the primary production department said in a statement.

"In view of the savage nature of these breeds of dogs, the public is strongly advised not to keep them," the department said. "These dogs are bred for fighting, are relatively insensitive to pain and are difficult to restrain in an attack, which usually results in severe or fatal injury to the victim."

The department said it was studying ways to control dangerous dogs already in Singapore, including sterilisation, mandatory muzzling outside the owner's property and a requirement that owners post bonds and take out third party insurance for the dogs.

Boy to be youngest university student in Singapore

SINGAPORE (R) — A 13-year-old Malaysian boy will become the youngest ever student at the National University of Singapore (NUS) next month when he joins the science department, university officials have said. Loh Chang Shing, who has been allowed to skip six grades in Malaysian schools, was accepted by the university after special entrance examinations. He has also been accepted by two U.S. universities. "We prefer to send him to NUS as it is nearer, more affordable and there won't be any culture shock," Loh's father, a biochemist in Ipoh, Malaysia, told Singapore's Sunday Times newspaper. The boy said he expected a "generation gap" in his relations with his older classmates. "Our social interests are different. I like chess, computer games and programming but my older friends have different interests."

Taipei zoo to auction off over 230 animals

TAIPEI (R) — Taipei's Municipal Zoo plans to auction off more than 230 animals to raise money and reduce overcrowding. Taiwanese zoo officials said. The animals include two giraffes, antelopes, baboons, monkeys, a pair of camels and scores of ducks, the zoo's director Wang Kuang-Ping told reporters at the weekend. Some of the animals can only be sold to state-run or private zoos because of wildlife protection laws, and private citizens will have to promise to treat their purchases kindly, Wang said. He expected to obtain formal government approval of the sale, the zoo's biggest auction and its first for many years, within months. The zoo was not yet estimated prices for the animals.

Pope seeks to mend rift between Poles, Ukrainians

LUBACZOW, Poland (AP) — Pope John Paul II, reaching out to believers in the Soviet Union and seeking to mend rifts between ethnic Poles and Ukrainians, Monday welcomed thousands more Ukrainian pilgrims to this border region.

The Pope, preaching tolerance and countering Soviet believers emerging from decades of Communist oppression, celebrated an open-air mass at a sports arena in this southeastern town 23 kilometres from the Soviet border.

Soviet authorities, who during the Polish-born Pope's previous three trips to his homeland had blocked the frontiers, opened extra border crossings and allowed at least 10,000 pilgrims through to see the Pope Sunday.

Needing no visas, they came on foot, by train and on buses.

Soviet prosecutor vindicates use of force in Lithuania

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet prosecutor's office Monday vindicated the use of troops in the bloody suppression of pro-independence demonstrations in Lithuania last January.

In a preliminary report that could revive Western doubts about Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's commitment to reforms, the prosecutor said none of the 13 Lithuanian victims was killed by the Soviet military or their auxiliary forces.

He also said the troops were called in to restore order amid civil unrest in Lithuania and met with a hail of stones, Molotov cocktails and even bullets.

Thirteen civilians were killed and hundreds were injured in the early hours of Jan. 13 when Soviet forces stormed the Radio and Television Centre in Vilnius where pro-independence demonstrators had formed a protective ring.

Troops said they had been called in by a shadowy Committee of National Salvation, seeking to stem what it called a social crisis and to restore the republic's ties to Moscow.

The report, signed by prosecutor Nikolai Trubin and distributed to the Soviet parliament, blamed Lithuania's separatist leadership for the crisis, citing what it called "unconstitutional activities."

"The leadership of the Soviet Interior (Ministry) troops... and the Vilnius garrison, in order to provide safety and law and order and to prevent mass riots and to disarm the militants... took appropriate measures."

"Investigators of the Lithuanian prosecutor's office presented no proof that would confirm that the deaths and injuries were the result of the military action,"

Trubin said.

The findings contradicted first-hand accounts by a number of Western reporters and local witnesses, who said unarmed protesters were crushed by Soviet tanks, beaten with rifle butts and fired upon by elite paratrooper squads.

Disclosure of the investigation results comes as the Soviet leader seeks an invitation to the July summit of seven leading industrialised countries to discuss assistance for his crumbling economy.

The bloodshed in Vilnius touched off a wave of anger in the West and led to a delay of the superpower summit that had been set for early February.

But Gorbachev recently appeared to have repaired most of the damage, reaching a compromise with his critics in the Soviet republics and improving contacts with Western partners.

Khmer Rouge rejects Hun Sen as vice chairman of National Council

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — The strongest of the Cambodian guerrilla factions refused Monday to accept the government's premier as vice chairman of a council that would lead the war-torn nation until elections are held.

Resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk, who is to head the Supreme National Council, said the Khmer Rouge guerrilla faction also rejected an indefinite extension of the ceasefire between the guerrillas and the Vietnamese-backed government.

Sihanouk said nominal Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan conveyed the faction's rejection of Premier Hun Sen as vice chairman at a meeting Monday.

"The Khmer Rouge supports Sihanouk as chairman of the Supreme National Council but not Hun Sen as vice chairman of the council," Sihanouk said after his talks with Khieu Samphan.

Sihanouk and Hun Sen had agreed Sunday on the two of them taking the top posts on the council of guerrilla and government representatives, and on an indefinite extension of the ceasefire.

Such an extension, they agreed, would help provide a better climate for peace talks on ending the 12-year-old Cambodian war.

The ceasefire began May 1 and originally was scheduled to last at least until the end of the current Jakarta peace talks. It had been proposed in April by France, Indonesia and the U.N. secretary general, the main brokers in the Cambodian peace process.

Sihanouk quoted Khieu Samphan as saying that if the current negotiations did not produce an agreement, the Khmer Rouge would continue fighting "because they are militarily stronger than

Hun Sen's forces and also because they think they will eventually win the war."

Sihanouk added, "I regret this attitude because the extension of ceasefire is more beneficial to Cambodia."

"Now I rely on the skill of Indonesia's Foreign Minister Ali Alatas to try to narrow down the gap between the Khmer Rouge and the non-Khmer Rouge leadership," Sihanouk told reporters after a courtesy call on Indonesia's President Suharto.

He said he and Hun Sen already have built a good basis for future efforts to resolve the Cambodian problem. He did not elaborate.

Rights abuses rampant in post-Tiananmen China — Amnesty

HONG KONG (R) — Summary executions, torture of prisoners, arbitrary arrests and unfair trials have increased sharply in China since the crackdown on pro-democracy protests in Peking two years ago, Amnesty International says.

"The international community's criticism of China's human rights record has become muted but the abuses themselves have never stopped," the London-based human rights organisation said in its latest report released Tuesday.

Hundreds of pro-democracy activists from 1989 were detained for months or even over a year before being charged and possibly thousands more were still languishing in prisons and detention centres now, according to the report.

Several hundred and believed to have been secretly executed shortly after June 1989, it said. Despite relatively light sentences given to several student leaders earlier this year which were widely publicised, Amnesty said a continuing crackdown on pro-democracy activists had led to some of the harshest sentences seen in recent years.

"It's not uncommon for people out of the spotlight — ordinary activists or those tried outside Peking — to be jailed for 10 to 20

years, sometimes simply for making dissident speeches," the report said.

It cited the example of Chen Lantao, sentenced in northern Shandong province to 18 years in prison for joining the 1989 protests.

China's human rights record has been criticised by U.S. congressmen who want to make renewal of the preferential trade status Washington accords Peking conditional on human rights improvements.

The Amnesty report said torture of prisoners, usually to extract pre-trial confessions, had increased in recent years.

Methods included severe beatings, shocks with electric batons and the use of handcuffs, shackles or ropes in positions intended to inflict pain.

Also common were deprivation of sleep or food, exposure to cold and being made to adopt exhausting physical postures, the report said.

"Those people who do actually get to the courtroom have faced a trial system so seriously flawed that it comes nowhere near international standards," Amnesty said.

"Defendants often cannot choose their lawyers, they are not given enough time to prepare their defence and the verdict is

often decided beforehand."

The report also expressed concern about a dramatic rise in the number of executions, particularly in connection with anti-crime campaigns launched since 1989.

Last year, more than 750 people were executed, the highest number since 1983.

Amnesty said it had the names of more than 50 people who were sentenced to death since June 1989 for crimes allegedly committed during the protests, but the number of those secretly executed was believed to be far higher.

"According to some sources, several hundred people were secretly executed in various places within or near the capital between June and August 1989," the report said.

More than 40 crimes, including theft, smuggling and embezzlement, are punishable by death in China. Many are publicly humiliated at mass rallies before being executed.

"In some cities, groups of prisoners have also been paraded through the streets on the back of open lorries, with their arms tightly bound behind their backs, just before being taken to the execution ground."

Amnesty described this as cruel and degrading treatment prohibited under the United Nations

convention against torture which China signed in 1988.

Arrests of religious leaders and Tibetan nationalists had also increased in the past few years, the report said.

More than 100 arrests of Roman Catholic priests, bishops and lay church leaders were reported between late 1989 and late 1990.

Of thousands of Tibetan nationalists detained in 1987 for taking part in pro-independence demonstrations, about 200 were known to be still held in the capital Lhasa, Amnesty said.

Meanwhile, gunfire boomed across Peking's Tiananmen Square Monday, the second anniversary of the start of the Chinese army assault to crush a pro-democracy movement, but this time in a ceremonial salute for a visiting dignitary.

Where tanks and soldiers fired live ammunition into crowds on the night of June 3 and 4, 1989, the 21-gun welcoming salute Monday was for Jamaican Prime Minister Michael Manley, witnesses said.

An array of eight artillery pieces was drawn up at the base of the monument to the people's heroes in the centre of the square, where in 1989 the last of the student protesters leading the pro-Democracy Movement had stayed before the army moved in.

Men of the People's Armed Police militia closed the 100 acre (40 hectare) square to the public Monday morning, but officials said it would be reopened later.

Manley laid a wreath at the monument before beginning talks with Premier Li Peng, widely blamed by the Chinese public for ordering the crackdown two years ago.

By late on the night of June 3, 1989, armoured troop carriers smashed through barriers erected by Peking residents and thousands of troops backed by tanks fired wildly as they carved their way through angry crowds in the streets around Tiananmen Square.

Early in the morning of June 4 the army drove out the last protesters still camped on Tiananmen Square, ending the seven-week long movement.

The government, in its official history of what it calls the 1989 turmoil, says 3,000 civilians were wounded in the assault and more than 200, including 36 college students, killed.

Dissidents, diplomats and eyewitnesses say the death toll was much higher, with possibly thousands killed.

Tight security and severe warnings have kept Peking's university campuses quiet around the anniversary this year.

